STEELES AVENUE WINS WORST ROAD AGAIN

PAGE 3

What does your Happy Dance look like?

LOTTO 649

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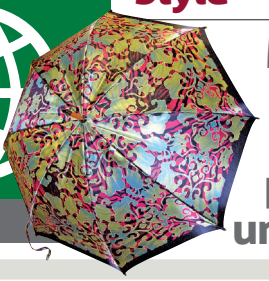
Style pg 32



Make a splash with a printed umbrella

Loonie leaps back above 80 cents US

CURRENCY The Canadian dollar had one of its biggest single-day jumps in history yesterday as the value of the U.S. greenback eroded against other major currencies.

The loonie ended the session ahead 3.67 cents to 81.63 cents US.

It had jumped by as much as 4.5 cents from Tuesday's close, according to Bank of Montreal's currency desk. That was the biggest intraday daily gain ever for the loonie, beating a record set in the early 1970s, according to Bank of Canada data.

The loonie's surge was interrupted by the buck, which recovered some ground after the Fed slashed a key interest rate by half a percentage point.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada pg 8

Guilty verdict in terror trial

Sports pg 15

Raptors slam 76ers in Philly

Metro Homes pg 19

Throwing art on the floor

ShareYourViews
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World Series

Phillies win... finally

DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

The Philadelphia Phillies pile on top of closing pitcher Brad Lidge #54 after they won 4-3 to claim the World Series title against the Tampa Bay Rays during the continuation of Game 5 yesterday at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia, Penn. Story, page 15.

Obama gambles on TV message

Rival jumps on Democrat's on-air personal, policy pitch

Barack Obama, in an bid to swamp rival John McCain in the final days of the U.S. presidential election, spoke directly to voters last night in a slickly produced 30-minute infomercial aired in prime time on seven networks.

The Democratic candidate spent about $4 million for the broadcast, the first such gambit by a presidential hopeful in 16 years.

He mixed biography with personal stories from hard-pressed Americans — most from battleground states — and testimonials from governors, senate colleagues and a military official.

Policy proposals were pitched from an office that looked like it could have been the Oval Office, a risky move for a candidate once accused of usurping the presidential seal as a campaign emblem.

As the video ended, viewers were transported to a live speech Obama was delivering in Kissimmee, Fla.

Last night's broadcast renewed talk of Obama Overload and played to McCain's charges that the Illinois senator was already "measuring the drapes" in the Oval Office and had a penchant for presumptuous gestures that will alienate American voters.

Republicans also reminded voters that Obama could spend such money because he had broken a pledge to join McCain and accept public financing during the general election period.

Obama's infomercial was part of a final offensive that included an appearance on Jon Stewart's Daily Show and Obama's first joint appearance last night with former president Bill Clinton.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 10

Election TV

- Independent candidate Ross Perot, 1992, was the last presidential candidate to buy network airtime for an unfiltered message to voters.

'Essential' TTC vote expected to be tight

CITY COUNCIL Supporters of a bid to designate Toronto's transit system an "essential service" — a move that would prohibit its workers from striking — won a tactical victory yesterday at city council.

They succeeded in a procedural vote, by a surprising 25-17 margin, to have the issue deemed an "urgent" item.

But the councillors backing a motion asking the province to designate the TTC as "essential" say Mayor David Miller's allies are hard at work persuading undecided councillors to defeat the idea in today's vote.

Proponents deplore the fact that a TTC work stoppage like last spring's surprise weekend strike costs the city's economy about $50 million a day.

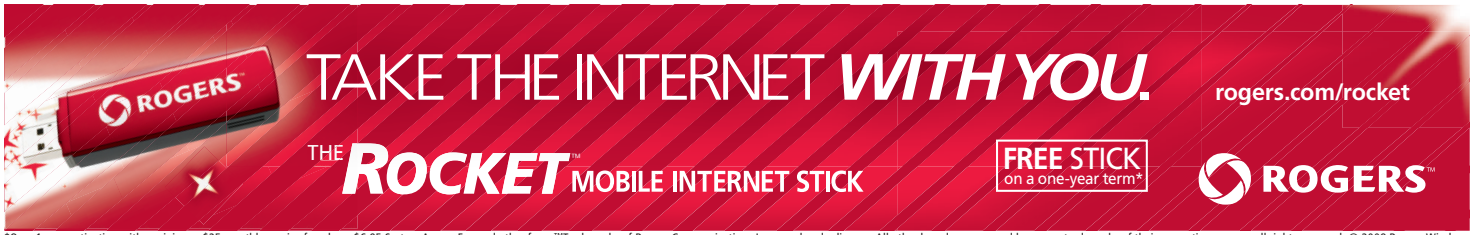
But the procedural vote "is an indication that this final vote is going to be a lot closer than anybody thinks," said Coun. Cliff Jenkins, adding Miller's staff and supporters were busy lining up votes on their side of the issue.

Those opposing the essential service motion say banning legal strikes often leads to illegal work stoppages, which are even harder to manage.

Miller said yesterday he's not taking extraordinary measures.

"I've made my position clear," he told reporters when asked what he's doing to win the vote. "I haven't twisted any arms whatsoever."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Costume Party Cocktails

Bewitch your guests with this intriguing drink. Fragrant with spices, it's Halloween for grown-ups.

ZOMBIE

1 oz. each of dark, amber and white rum
1 oz. pineapple juice
2 oz. orange juice
1 oz. lime juice
1 tsp. sugar

Combine everything in a cocktail shaker and shake vigorously.

Serve in a Collins glass with ice and garnish with a maraschino cherry.

DISCOVER LCBO THE WORLD

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7441

Trick or Treat prostitution sweep snares 22
Twenty-two men and women are charged after police conducted a prostitution sweep dubbed Project Trick or Treat in the Danforth Avenue-Victoria Park Avenue area. Those arrested were aged from 18 to 66. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Bloor challenge tossed out

A court has dismissed a challenge of the $25 million upgrade of Bloor Street, saying objections to the project came too late. Well-known lawyer Clayton Ruby, left, represented a group of businesses in the area lead by William Ashley China Ltd. who wanted the project, which began this summer and is to be completed about a year from now, delayed.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Movies

Rick McGinnis talks to the director of Quantum of Solace, and the new Bond girl, Olga Kurylenko.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch as a Montreal elementary school's circus arts class turns kids into gym heroes at metronews.ca/canada
Read Billy Munnelly as he spotlights two classic wines at metronews.ca/live.
Check metronews.ca/canada later this morning for news on Harper's cabinet shuffle

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 1, 3, 26, 33, 42 & 46. Bonus 45; **Ontario Pick 3:** 9 7 1; **Ontario Pick 4:** 5 6 1 9; **Encore:** 6898280; **Daily Keno:** 4, 17, 21, 24, 25, 29, 35, 36, 38, 42, 43, 45, 52, 53, 54, 61, 62, 64, 67, 70. These results are not official.

Steeles is worst road

Cost sharing crux of problem

Steeles Avenue, once again voted by CAA drivers as the worst local road in Ontario, isn't being repaired adequately because of an ancient jurisdictional dispute between Toronto and York Region.

Both admit they benefit from Steeles, but since the dividing line used to run right down the middle, there is a perennial disagreement about who should pay for it.

John Mende, Toronto's director of transportation infrastructure management, said there's no real dispute over jurisdiction — the street belongs to Toronto — but the city and York Region still haven't figured out how best to divide the expense.

"We have deferred ..... work on Steeles because we don't want to spend a lot of funds on the rehabilitation until we have an arrangement," Mende said. "Because of the age of our infrastructure and the budget available, we can't address all our needs every year."

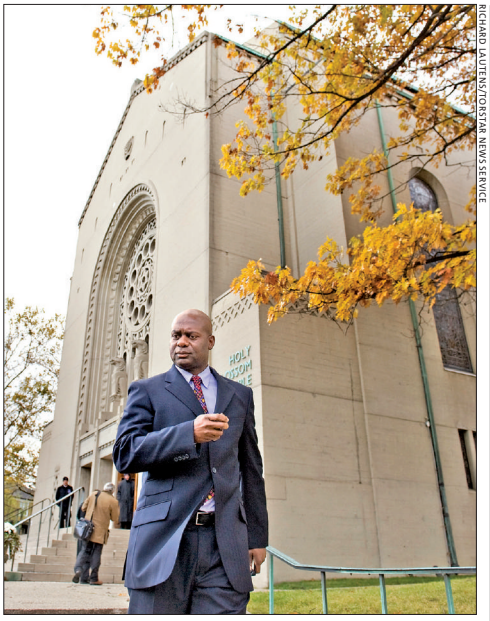
Steeles, which on some stretches carries as many as 28,000 vehicles a day, is a veteran champion on CAA's list of terrible roads.

Though its ranking has fluctuated, it has appeared regularly since CAA and the Ontario Road Builders' Association started the list in 2003. Drivers in Ontario cast 6,500 votes; Toronto drivers cast 848 of them and Steeles alone earned 250.

Mende said his department plans to resurface the section between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue sometime in 2009.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Worst roads
Top 10 in Ontario

- 1. Steeles Ave., Toronto
- 2. Brock St., Kingston
- 3. Vermillion Lake Rd., Sudbury
- 4. Limebank Rd., Ottawa
- 5. Regent St., Sudbury
- 6. Anne St., Barrie
- 7. Erb St., Waterloo
- 8. Franklin Blvd., Cambridge/Waterloo
- 9. Stone Church Rd., Hamilton
- 10. Carling Ave., Ottawa


RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Disgraced Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson leaves the Holy Blossom Temple after the funeral service for former Ontario chief justice Charles Dubin.

Sprinter Johnson joins legal luminaries at Dubin funeral

The cream of the legal profession came to pay their final respects yesterday to former Ontario chief justice Charles Dubin, and so did disgraced Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson.

Dubin, who died Monday at age 87, is perhaps best known for presiding over the 1989-1990 inquiry into steroid use in amateur sport. Johnson, who was stripped of his gold medal after testing positive for steroid use at the 1988 Seoul Olympics sparking the inquiry.

"He treats everybody fairly," Johnson said outside the Holy Blossom Temple yesterday after the service.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lawyer says Weese was stressed out

As he was led into the prisoner's box yesterday Kyle Weese searched the court, finally finding his mother and younger brother.

Clothed in an orange prison jumpsuit, Weese clasped his hands over his waist and after a few seconds turned away from the two.

Weese, 24, is accused of fatally shooting bystander, Bailey Zaveda, 23, Saturday and wounding four others in a spree of bullets outside a bar.

Defence lawyer Jacqueline An said Weese decided to turn himself in because "it was the right thing to do." He called her office Monday, she said, but she was out of town, so they arranged to meet Tuesday.

Weese seemed "very stressed out" on Tuesday, An said. She arranged for his surrender immediately, driving Weese and her associate Daniel Stein to 55 Division on Coxwell Avenue.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charge

- Weese's brother Matthew was also shot. But homicide Det. Sgt. Gary Giroux said he is not planning to add a fifth attempted murder charge because it is unlikely Matthew would co-operate with police.

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Cop accused of sexual assault

A Toronto police officer has been charged with sexual assault. A woman said she met a man at a coffee shop Sunday after they made contact at an online dating site. Charged is Const. Gaganpreet Grewal, 26, who has spent one year on the force. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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York facing strike

University to begin talks with union

York University is gearing up to avoid a possible strike next week as administrators enter negotiations today with temporary faculty and teaching assistants.

"We're telling students to be patient," Dean Robert Drummond, spokesperson for the university's negotiating team, said last night, adding talks will continue through the weekend until next Tuesday.

If a strike should occur classes for some 50,000 students will be suspended, Drummond said. But he added the term "will be made up. It will be inconvenient for people but it will be possible for them to complete their year."

Drummond said the union's demand of a more than 30 per cent wage increase over two years is "unrealistic."

"The university is facing the same tough economy as everyone else. But the union members would obviously say they're facing tough economic times and need money. "

"The university is facing the same tough economy as everyone else. But the union members would obviously say they're facing tough economic times and need money." Dean Robert Drummond

But Graham Potts, CUPE negotiator for the roughly 3,200 part-time staff — 1,600 graduate students who work as teaching assistants, 750 graduate students who work as research assistants and 900 contract faculty — said the issues are better job security and benefits.

The workers, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903, will be in a legal strike position Nov. 2, following an 86 per cent strike vote earlier this month. However, the union postponed the strike deadline until next Thursday, Nov. 6 "in hopes the university might finally come back with an offer we can work with," Potts said.

Union officials say they worry York is pushing to lock them out next week, rather than sweeten the offer. The last time the union went on strike was in 2000-2001.

Improvements Potts said the union is seeking include:

- Better job security for contract staff, who he says often have to reapply for their jobs every year even if they have worked at the university for years;
- Health benefits that do not shrink when the ranks of union members grow. Potts said the health benefits fund is capped even though membership has grown by 30 per cent over the past three years, which has led to a reduction of the university's contribution to 40 per cent from 100 per cent.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Task force to combat gang crimes in Peel

LAW AND ORDER Peel Regional Police are redeploying 12 officers in response to a recent surge in gang-related violent crime across the region.

The officers are being assigned to the Strategic and Targeted Enforcement Program (S.T.E.P.), an initiative funded by the provincial government that focuses on gangs and suppressing violent crime. The uniformed officers will patrol the streets for three months starting Nov. 1.

"I see this as a proactive step towards the attitude of our young adults that seem to be involved in a lot of these homicides that we've experienced this year," said Emil Kolb, chair of the Peel Police Services Board.

Peel Region has had 24 homicides this year, up from 17 in 2007. Many have been identified as gang- and drug-related, and more than half occurred in Brampton and the Mississauga neighbourhood of Malton.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Halloween Sale

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Youth denies inflicting fatal blows

A Brampton youth on trial for murder testified yesterday the victim's blood was on his clothes because he "cradled" the dying man after another struck fatal blows. Anthony Medwid, 20, admitted he viciously beat the 27-year-old victim, but denied using a knife. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

End of road for Hadassah bazaar

In the final hours, the deals came by the garbage bag-full.

"Fill a bag for a dollar!" "Fill a bag for $8!" "Fill a garbage bag for $10!" "Shove as much as you can!"

Shoppers riffled through piles of clothing — designer jeans, leather jackets, wedding dresses galore — focused on leaving the 84th and final Hadassah-WIZO Bazaar with as much stuff as possible.

Organizers were pleased by the turnout of 9,500, just shy of their 10,000 target, but the prevailing mood was one of nostalgia for a time gone by, and shoppers, dragging bulging garbage bags behind them, felt it too.

After this bazaar, there will be no others. That's because the annual fundraiser, held by the Toronto chapters of Canada's largest Zionist organization, is a relic from a time when most women were housewives and discount department stores did not exist.

Some shoppers, noting the swelling crowd, wondered if the turnout might convince organizers to keep the bazaar tradition alive. "It'll be back next year," one woman predicted, looking back at the line.

But chair Barbi Benjamin Levitt quickly put an end to the rumours. "Not happening," she quipped as she shepherded shoppers inside. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tiffani Takac shops at the Hadassah-WIZO Bazaar at the Direct Energy Centre yesterday.

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Walk brings hope for homeless

CHARITY When Jessica laces up her runners on Sunday for the fifth annual Floyd Honey Memorial Walk, she will be doing more than raising money for homeless youth.

She will be helping troubled teens follow in her footsteps — off the streets and into meaningful lives focused on education, employment and healthy relationships.

"Giving back is really important to me, because I know how important it was for me to get help when I needed it," says the 21-year-old, who fled to Toronto from an abusive home in London, Ont., at age 16.

She found Eva's, an emergency shelter that offers education and job training and helps homeless and at-risk youth become self-sufficient.

Honey, a former United Church minister who worked in China and for the Canadian and World Council of Churches, spent his retirement years supporting programs like Eva's. But in 2002, on his way home from a vigil for the homeless, Honey, 86, was hit by a subway train. He later died in hospital.

The Walking Home fundraiser is in memory of Honey's final walk home from the vigil.

The walk begins at Nathan Phillips Square at 1 p.m. See www.walkinghome.ca for details.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COURT Around 2004, Altaf Ibrahim started believing his university friends had raped his mother, and he used a metal detector to swipe himself for surveillance devices. The delusions were part of Ibrahim's deteriorating mental health before he shot Jean Springer at the front door of her home on New Year's Day 2007. Yesterday, Superior Court Justice Ian Nordheimer found Ibrahim, 28, not criminally responsible for killing the much-admired mother and wife. She was 60.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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***Value based on the Bay reg-price per ml/g.

BEAUTY *at the Bay*

Missing anglers found in good condition

A military aircraft yesterday found three anglers missing since Tuesday in northern Ontario. The two men and a woman had spent the night on shore after their boat broke down, and despite the cold weather, were in good condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Economy to dominate agenda

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's plans to deal with a flagging economy will dominate the agenda when Parliament returns Nov. 18, a senior government official said yesterday. Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean will deliver a throne speech outlining the new government's priorities the following day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Khawaja convicted

Ottawa man guilty of five terrorism-related charges

Ottawa software developer Momin Khawaja has been found guilty under the Anti-Terrorism Act in the first major test of the controversial legislation rushed into law after the 9-11 attacks.

Khawaja was convicted yesterday on five charges of financing and facilitating terrorism for providing cash to a group of British extremists, offering them lodging and other assistance, and undergoing training at a remote camp in Pakistan.

He was also found guilty of two Criminal Code offences related to building a remote-control device, known as the Hi-Fi Digimonster, intended to trigger bomb blasts.

Background

- Born in Ottawa, Khawaja moved with his family to Libya, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia before returning to Canada. In correspondence, he once recalled U.S. bombing raids in Tripoli, wailing sirens and his mother hiding the children under the dining room table.

But Justice Douglas Rutherford concluded he was not guilty of terrorism offences with regard to the Digimonster, saying there was insufficient proof Khawaja knew it was to be used in fertilizer bomb attacks in London.

British authorities foiled the plot by Islamic extremists who eyed targets including a nightclub, a construction firm, and gas, water and power utilities.

Khawaja, 29, was arrested in March 2004. He pleaded not guilty to the charges and was tried without a jury.

Neatly dressed in cream blazer and blue dress shirt, Khawaja betrayed no emotion as Rutherford delivered his judgment.

Five associates, including bomb-plot ringleader Omar Khyam, were sentenced to prison last year after being convicted in London.

"Momin Khawaja was aware of the group's purposes, and whether he considered them terrorism or not, he assisted the group in many ways in the pursuit of its terrorist objective," Rutherford wrote in his judgment. "It matters not whether any terrorist activity was actually carried out."

Lawrence Greenspon, Khawaja's lawyer, called the ruling a victory.

"The prosecution fundamentally was directed at his involvement in the London bombing. The judge has acquitted him on that."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

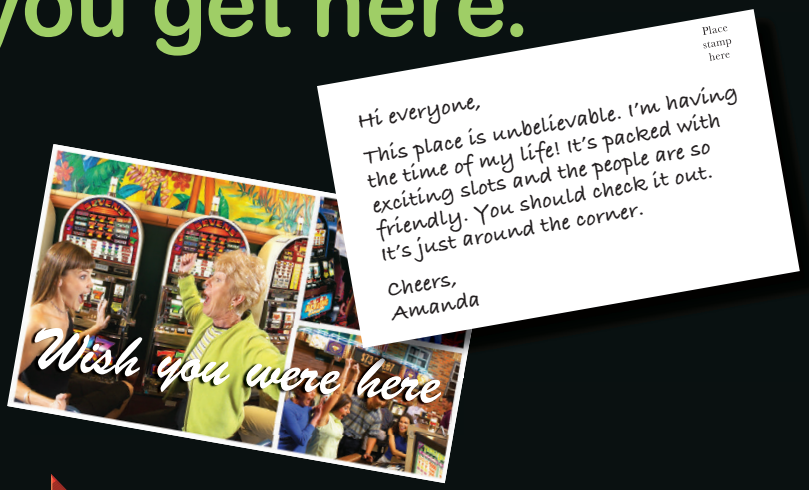
Watch as Khawaja is convicted in first test of controversial Anti-Terror Act at metronews.ca/canada

Brockville **Snowed under**

DARCY CHEEK/THE CANADIAN PRESS/BROCKVILLE RECORDER AND TIMES

A freak October snowstorm blasted Brockville and eastern Ontario late Tuesday and through the night into yesterday. Residents woke up yesterday to as much as 20 centimetres of heavy, wet snow and hundreds of trees, many like the maple here with its fall foliage still intact, with broken limbs and bowed trunks.

Feel the excitement even before you get here.



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Cities hope to 'upload' services

PANEL Cities are eagerly expecting some Halloween treats when Queen's Park sweetens a deal with municipalities over money for welfare and housing.

Tomorrow's long-awaited report of a provincial-municipal panel will detail what the province will do to take back responsibilities that were downloaded in 1998.

Mayor David Miller has always said that if the province took back the services that were downloaded onto cities Toronto would have few budgetary woes. For example, in 2008 social housing will cost Toronto $336 million and the welfare bill is expected to be $268 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SENTENCE A Keswick man who strung a black-painted skeleton from a noose underneath a Confederate flag has been sentenced to 45 days in jail.

FROST David Frost has no "magical" ability to compel people to have sex, and the sex acts that two women claim he orchestrated for his young players never happened, his lawyer argued yesterday during a day of testimony.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Harper still needs to woo Canadians: Study

A new Conservative cabinet to be unveiled today faces "significant governing challenges" because Canadians are in a sour post-election mood, with no appetite for partisan bickering and little tolerance for deficit spending, according to a new study.

Ensight Canada, an Ottawa-based firm of lobbyists and consultants, conducted its own five-city post-election series of focus groups on why people voted they way they did. It found high and conflicting expectations for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, even among his own supporters.

While Harper made important political gains with ethnic communities, women voters, and some key urban areas, he appears to have a big task ahead.

Canadians were disappointed that there was no clear vision or program from political candidates, including the winning party's leader, wrote author Jaime Watt.

Though the study's participants "clearly identified Stephen Harper as the best choice for uncertain times, their enthusiasm was muted, even amongst his own voters. Almost to a person, participants said this election was a waste of time and money which prevented meaningful action to protect Canada's economy," Watt wrote.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Almost to a person, participants said this election was a waste of time and money which prevented meaningful action to protect Canada's economy." James Watt

Check metronews.ca/canada after the official announcement this morning for all the details.

Dermatology fee 'illegal': MPP

HEALTH A $125 fee to schedule an appointment to see a dermatologist is proof some people in Ontario are facing "illegal" charges to access health services that should be covered for all citizens, Progressive Conservative MPP Jim Wilson charged yesterday.

Wilson, a former health minister in the 1990s, said he was surprised when he was asked to pay the fee when he tried to make an appointment with his dermatologist, and was told the charge was being imposed because he didn't have a referral from a family doctor.

The Ontario Medical Association estimates there are 850,000 people in the province who, like Wilson, don't have a family doctor because of a shortage of physicians.

"I informed the receptionist that I didn't have a family doctor, so I couldn't get a referral letter, and secondly, that I was pretty sure that the $125 fee was illegal," Wilson told the legislature.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vermont school shooter sentenced to 3 life terms for 2006 rampage

Christopher Williams, who killed two people in a 2006 school shooting rampage in Vermont, has been sentenced to three consecutive life terms on two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder. Prosecutors say he went on the rampage after he and his girlfriend broke up. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Chess champ retains title

Viswanathan Anand of India has retained his world chess title with a draw against Russian challenger Vladimir Kramnik. Anand was leading before yesterday's game and needed only a draw to secure the match and retain his title. A prize worth $2.35 million is to be equally divided between the two. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama leads in key states

Barack Obama, gunning for a national landslide, now leads in four states won by U.S. President George W. Bush in 2004 and is essentially tied with John McCain in two other Republican states, according to new AP-GfK battleground polling.

The results help explain why the Democrat is pressing his money and manpower advantages in traditionally Republican states, hoping not just for a win but a transcendent victory that remakes the country's political map. McCain is scrambling to defend states where he wouldn't even be campaigning if the race were closer.

Polling shows Obama holding solid leads in Ohio (seven percentage points), Nevada (12 points), Colorado (nine) and Virginia (seven), all red states won by Bush that collectively offer 47 electoral votes. Sweeping those four — or putting together the right combination of two or three — would almost certainly make Obama president. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shielding Obama?

- John McCain and Sarah Palin accused the Los Angeles Times yesterday of protecting Barack Obama by withholding a videotape of the Democrat attending a 2003 party with a Palestinian-American professor and critic of Israel.

ARSHAD BUTT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistani villagers are seen near their houses damaged by the earthquake in Ziarat, Pakistan.

Pakistan earthquake kills at least 170

DISASTER Villagers clawed through piles of mud and timber while others dug mass graves yesterday after an earthquake collapsed thousands of homes in Pakistan, killing at least 170 people and injuring hundreds more.

Army transport planes ferried tents, medical supplies and blankets to the quake zone in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, where some 15,000 were made homeless by the shallow, 6.4-magnitude jolt that struck as most people slept.

With aftershocks rattling the region, survivors were sleeping in the open under blankets scavenged from the remains of their homes, shivering as temperatures hovered near freezing.

Pakistan is no stranger to natural disasters, but the quake comes at an especially precarious time, with its newly elected leaders battling surging al Qaeda and Taliban attacks and an economic crisis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN Military planners now think they may need to send more than double the number of extra troops initially believed needed to fight the war in Afghanistan. The buildup in the increasingly violent campaign could amount to more than 20,000 troops rather than the originally planned 10,000, two senior defence officials said yesterday on condition of anonymity because no new figures have been approved.

DISCUSSIONS China will hold a new round of talks with representatives of the Dalai Lama, state media reported yesterday, days after the exiled spiritual leader said he had given up on persuading Beijing to allow greater autonomy for Tibet. The Xinhua News Agency said the meeting would be held "in the near future," but did not give a specific date. The last round of discussions ended in an impasse in July. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ghana to demand Dutch return 19th-century chief's head
A Dutch university has the old head of an African tribal chief, and a Ghanaian diplomat says his country wants it returned for burial. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spector's retrial begins

A prosecutor yesterday portrayed eccentric musical genius Phil Spector as a man who repeatedly threatened women with guns and could become "very sinister, very violent and very deadly" when he was drunk.

Prosecutor Alan Jackson set sights on the defendant during his opening statement in Spector's retrial on a murder charge in the 2003 death of actress Lana Clarkson. Prosecutors claim Spector shot her after she resisted his sexual advances.

Phil Spector

In a speech reminiscent of the one he gave at the first trial, Jackson described the killing of Clarkson at Spector's mansion and displayed photos showing her in life and death. One image showed her body slumped in a chair with blood all over her face.

Jackson also recounted the statement of a chauffeur who told of Spector emerging from the house saying: "I think I killed somebody."

The defence's opening statement was expected later. In Spector's first trial, the defence argued the 40-year-old Clarkson became despondent over her fading career and killed herself.

Most of Jackson's opening statement dealt with a long line of women stretching over 30 years who he said were threatened with death by a gun-wielding Spector.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hudson killings suspect could have had his parole revoked

CHICAGO Busted for what police said was a rock of cocaine in his car, William Balfour could have been spending the past few months behind bars for a parole violation.

Balfour was instead allowed to remain free and is now a suspect in the deaths of actress Jennifer Hudson's mother, brother and nephew.

On the day the victims were fatally shot and the young boy went missing, Balfour told his parole agent he had missed a meeting because he was baby-sitting, records show.

By midnight, investigators had requested visitor lists, telephone numbers and "anything further" connected to Balfour, according to documents.

No one has yet been charged. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. reviewing changes to pact

IRAQ The United States has started reviewing proposed changes the Iraqis want in a controversial security pact that would let U.S. troops stay in Iraq after a United Nations mandate expires Dec. 31. An aide to the Iraqi prime minister says the Iraqis are seeking four changes in the deal, including one concerning judicial jurisdiction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. **We reserve the right to edit letters.**

Comment & Views

Comment

Assumptions put to test

Ex-U.S. envoy warns Obama win would be danger to Canada

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

Paul Cellucci, the former United States ambassador to Canada, warns that a victory by Barack Obama next week would be a "danger" for Canada because he might renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Cellucci worries that, should Obama win the presidency and the Democrats strengthen their hold on both houses of Congress, there would be "one-party government" in Washington. With that would come pressure from unionists and environmentalists to re-open the agreement.

Of course, it's nowhere certain Obama would question free trade at all. And it's curious that one-party government didn't bother Cellucci, an amiable Republican, when his party was in control of both the executive and legislative branches in 2004.

But he's right to argue that Obama as president represents a danger to Canadians — even if it is more psychological than economic.

"Fundamentally, Obama threatens our self-image. His election will challenge the smugness and moral superiority with which we have long viewed the United States."

Fundamentally, Obama threatens our self-image. His election will challenge the smugness and moral superiority with which we have long viewed the United States.

It will dispel home truths and force us to look at ourselves in a different light, undermining our deep-seated notion that we are the kinder, gentler people of North America — more tolerant, more progressive, more civic-minded.

Tolerant? In Fire and Ice, his bestselling study of attitudes on both sides of the border, pollster Michael Adams argues that Canadians are more sensitive to minorities than Americans because we are "a mosaic" and they are "a melting pot," demanding conformity from all newcomers.

This isn't true of the United States. It is a delusion that will evaporate if Americans elect their first black president.

Progressive? Barack Obama will come to office as the most liberal chief executive since Lyndon Johnson. Obama wants to introduce universal health care. If that happens — and the country's crushing debt may prevent it — Canadians will lose one of the differences between people they love to trumpet. Moreover, we will no longer corner the market on compassion.

Democratic? It won't be pretty to watch the antiquated American electoral machinery on election day. But if it breaks down, the likely reason is that a higher percentage of Americans will be voting this year than in any election since 1960.

Expect more than 59 per cent of Americans to cast ballots on Nov. 4, the record low number who voted here. This will put the lie to our boast that we are more engaged in politics than they.

Cellucci was right about Barack Obama. He is a threat to many of the self-satisfying assumptions that we have long had about ourselves and about our neighbours.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.

Views

Stepping into a new and uncertain life

By Denise Rudnicki

I was 20 years old the last time I went by land across Canada. I remember how exciting it was to feel so free, yet also how very ordinary what I was doing seemed to me.

My young life was ahead and it was supposed to be about adventure and anticipation. There was no fear; no worry about the future. I was hungry for change and new experiences. I wanted to take my place — centre stage.

Rekindled love with the boy I knew 35 years ago is propelling me west again — only this time it's like stepping off a cliff. This time fear is the leading actor in my play. I sold my house and everything in it. I'm leaving family, friends and community, driving to B.C. to live on a boat, and all without the security of a job. I'm so far out of my comfort zone that I barely recognize who or where I am.

For months before the move, I woke every night, awash in waves of cold anxiety. No one I knew was doing anything like this. They were paying off their mortgages, working in pensionable jobs, saving, looking forward to retirement and travel and grandchildren. I was stepping into the abyss, and with bad knees to boot. I was afraid I was making a mistake. I was afraid it wouldn't work out. I was afraid I would hate living on a boat. I was afraid I wouldn't find work. I was afraid I couldn't invent a new life at my age.

But love is a powerful motivator and I know it won't get any easier to do this. There isn't going to be a better time. I want a different sort of life and I know this means I have to take risks. Will I be willing to take these risks if I wait until I'm 60? 65? Surely, making this kind of seismic change will only get more difficult.

Denise Rudnicki

I feel a potent mixture of excitement and fear. Fear is a funny thing. It can ring very helpful alarm bells in your gut that can save your life, but it can also paralyze you and stop you from trying new things. My sister gave me some good advice — "Feel the fear and do it anyway."

Feeling this afraid and doing it anyway is the greatest test I've ever been set.

The last time I drove across Canada, my life was all ahead of me. Not as much of it lies ahead this time. But it's a much greater adventure as a result:

He took the mooring line and pulled the boat closer to the dock. Clutching a pint of oysters, a bottle of champagne and two hot water bottles, I stepped onto the boat and into a new and uncertain life. Afraid, but doing it anyway.

Denise Rudnicki has more than two decades experience as a journalist and communications executive.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

Lena Shulman, VAUGHAN

I am a University of Toronto student and I read Rick McGinnis' articles every day. Your writing is very engaging. I, too, am a huge fan of Mad Men and I was touched by your sentimental connection to the show. After reading that article I literally had to take a time out.

As an aspiring journalist, it is very hard to find a writer who genuinely moves you, especially when reviewing a television show. You make my morning commute very pleasant.

Darrell Samuels, MISSISSAUGA

I would like to respond to the article in the Oct. 27 edition of Metro (Re: Teen Internet addictions).

I am perturbed as to why there is a deep need for help for teenagers only, who may or may not spend a lot of time on the Internet, but adults are painted as fine and sane.

Why are teens painted as troubled, but it's OK for adults to spend their free time on the Internet?

Who's to say teens aren't searching for homework reasons or wanting to learn about a news story for school?

I am a 30-year-old man and I am just sick and tired of hearing the media painting teenagers in a bad light and that "mature" adults have it all together.

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Number of EI recipients stable in August
In August, 487,500 Canadians received regular Employment Insurance benefits, virtually unchanged from July. Regular benefit payments increased 2.7 per cent to $729.8 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Recall sliced sales in half: Maple Leaf

Canada's largest food processor says sales of sliced meats fell by as much as 50 per cent in the immediate aftermath of a nationwide product recall linked to the deadly listeria bacterium.

Open
Maple Leaf's Bartor Road processing plant has reopened and begun distributing some products, though it won't be fully operational for a few more weeks.

Maple Leaf Foods said the cost of the recall pushed it into a financial loss for the quarter ending Sept. 30. The company said it lost $12.9 million compared to a gain of $220,224 a year earlier. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Flaherty sees deficit

But insists Canada better off than others

Civil servants will have to temper their wage demands, provinces will see smaller increases in what they get from Ottawa, and short-term deficits are likely because of the global financial crisis and slowdown in the economy, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said yesterday.

"These are uncertain economic times." Jim Flaherty

Flaherty has been under pressure to devise a plan to stimulate the economy, which is close to recession.

"These are uncertain economic times," he told the Canadian and Empire clubs of Toronto. What is certain, Flaherty said, is that Canada is better off than most countries in the world. "If you asked other countries whether they would like to trade places with us, the line up of volunteers would be long."

He repeated his view the feds will end the year with a small surplus, but made it clear short-term deficits in future years are likely.

Some economists are predicting a deficit this fiscal year and red ink of more than $10 billion next year and deficits for years after that as the recession takes a bite out of government finances. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PAYROLL Average weekly earnings of employees increased 0.2 per cent from July to $792.56 in August. Statistics Canada reports average weekly earnings were up 2.8 per cent over August 2007.

YEN Sony reported a 72 per cent plunge in quarterly profit yesterday as a surging yen wiped out perks from flat-panel TV and PlayStation 3 sales, as well as box office revenue from the movie Hancock. Sony makes about 80 per cent of its sales overseas. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada's favourite writer examines meaning of debt

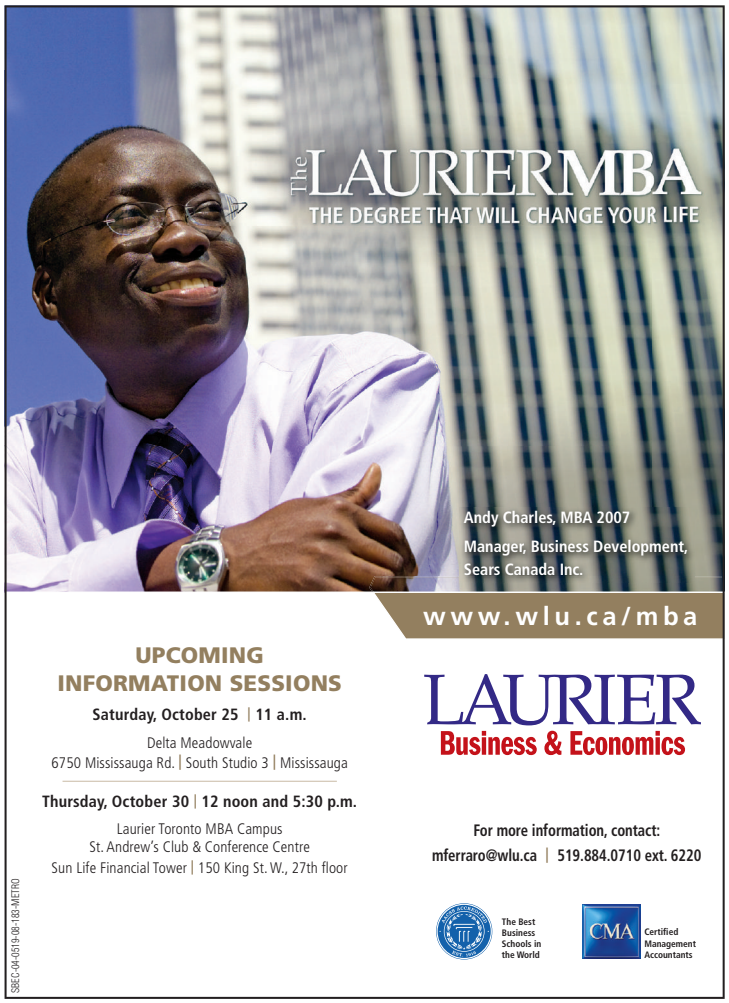
BookPicks

Payback: Debt and **the Shadow Side of Wealth**
Author: Margaret Atwood
Publisher: House of Anansi Press
Price: $18.95 (Paperback)

When the economy's facing upheaval, who you gonna call? Margaret Atwood! Leave it to Canada's favourite writer/activist/librettist to chew on economics just to regurgitate it into an historical, spiritual, literary mash-up. Atwood as storyteller takes the concept of debt and examines it through comparison and narrative in this five-part non-fiction account, the latest of the CBC Massey Lectures. Instead of a critique of the economy or condemnation of debtors, Atwood explores what debt means in a grander, often philosophical sense. In the title chapter, for instance, Atwood uses famed literary miser Ebenezer Scrooge in mutual retrospective of economic origins and forecast of our financial future.

Margaret Atwood will present Payback's title chapter in her final CBC Massey Lectures appearance in Toronto on Saturday. The presentation will take place at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada



U.S. Federal Reserve cuts key interest rate

The U.S. central bank yesterday reduced its federal funds rate, the interest banks charge on overnight loans, by half a percentage point to one per cent, a low last seen in 2003-2004. The funds rate has not been lower since 1958. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Takeover will cut 35,000 jobs

GM-CHRYSLER DEAL If General Motors acquires Chrysler, it will cost 25,000 to 35,000 jobs at the automakers, according to a Michigan consulting firm.

But the Anderson Economic Group of East Lansing said yesterday the alternative of Chrysler being sold in pieces would result in many more job losses.

Chrysler employs about 49,000 people in the U.S. and has about 125,000 retirees and spouses.

The automaker also has about 10,000 employees in Canada.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PS3 chip can crack green issues

A new computer chip is expected to help scientists at the University of Saskatoon crack tough environmental issues, like building coal-fired electricity plants that emit less carbon dioxide.

Some calculations that now take researchers 10 days to complete will instead take one day, thanks to the new high-speed chip manufactured by IBM.

The computer chip, which is used in Sony PlayStation 3 technology, works up to 20 times faster than an ordinary one.

Researchers will also use the technology to determine if coal-fired plants can harness carbon dioxide and turn it into environmentally friendly fuel, such as methanol.

The University of Saskatchewan will be one of the first such institutions in North America to have this technology.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Pension relief likely, Flaherty hints

OPTIONS The company pension plans of millions of Canadians, battered by weeks of stock markets turmoil, will likely receive some form of relief from the federal government, Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty indicated yesterday.

Speaking in Toronto, Flaherty said the government is considering easing rules that require companies to top up plans which fall below levels required to meet pension commitments.

He hinted one of the options on the table may include extending the five-year time period companies have to make up shortfalls.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Meltdown Black Tuesday

KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A nine-year-old girl pokes her head through an ice sculpture entitled Main Street Meltdown, on the 79th anniversary of Black Tuesday, the stock market crash that caused the Great Depression in New York, yesterday.

Purge costs trim BCE's profit

GOALS BCE Inc. says its latest quarter showed "clear progress" against its strategic goals, even though costs to purge 2,500 managers trimmed the telecom company's profit and flat revenue.

The Montreal-based company earned $248 million in the period ended Sept. 30, down from $406 million a year earlier when it benefited from the sale of its Telesat satellite business.

BCE's revenue in the third quarter also slipped, to $4.46 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

SALE First Calgary Petroleums, a Calgary-based natural gas developer with a major project in Algeria, got shareholder approval yesterday for the company's sale to an Italian company. The company said it received approvals for its sale to Italian energy producer Eni S.p.A. for $923 million, a deal valued at $3.60 a share.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ballesteros recuperating
Seve Ballesteros is improving after last week's surgery on his cancerous brain tumour. The La Paz hospital said yesterday that the 51-year-old golfing great remains in intensive care but his condition was "evolving favourably." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Leafs most valuable NHL franchise: Forbes

For the third straight year, the Toronto Maple Leafs are the NHL's most valuable team, worth $448 million. The Leafs increased in value by 9 percent and easily were valued ahead of the New York Rangers in Forbes' annual rankings. The Rangers are worth $411 million. The full list of teams is available at www.forbes.com/nhl
METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Now it's sunny in Philadelphia

Phillies wait two days to win Game 5, capture first World Series crown since 1980

WORLD SERIES – GAME 5
Rays 3 Phillies 4
RAYS vs PHILLIES
PHILLIES WIN SERIES 4-1

From losingest team to longest game, the Philadelphia Phillies are World Series champions.

"It's over," Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins said. "It's over, man."

Brad Lidge and the Phillies finished off the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 in a three-inning sprint Wednesday night to win a suspended Game 5 nearly 50 hours after it started.

Left in limbo by a two-day rainstorm, the Phillies seesawed to their first championship since 1980.

Pedro Feliz singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh and Lidge closed out his perfect season to deliver the title Philly craved for so long.

Bundled in parkas and blankets, fans returned in force to Citizens Bank Park and saw the city claim its first major sports championship in 25 years. No more references needed to those sad-sack Phillies teams in the past and their 10,000-plus losses.

It was among the most bizarre endings in baseball history, a best-of-seven series turned into a best-of-3 ½ showdown when play resumed in the bottom of the sixth inning tied at 2.

Tied 3-3, Pat Burrell led off the seventh with a drive off the centre-field wall against J.P. Howell. Chad Bradford relieved and one out later Feliz singled home pinch-runner Eric Bruntlett.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Carlos Ruiz charges Brad Lidge after Lidge recorded the final out of the Phillies 4-3 victory.

Leafs win 6-5 in shootout

AP PHOTO/RICH SCHULTZ
The Leafs' Ryan Hollweg skates off the ice with a cut on his face after a fight with New Jersey's Mike Rupp last night. Niklas Hagman scored on a nifty backhand in the fourth round of the shootout to give Toronto a 6-5 win over the Devils.

Bosh, O'Neal open strong for Raps

NBA RESULT
Raptors 95 76ers 84
RAPTORS vs 76ERS

NBA Chris Bosh had 27 points and 11 rebounds to help the Toronto Raptors beat the Philadelphia 76ers 95-84 last night in the opener for both teams. Jermaine O'Neal added 17 and Jason Kapono had 15 for the Raptors.

The start of the game was moved up an hour to 6 p.m. because the Philadelphia Phillies and Tampa Bay Rays were set to resume the bottom of the sixth inning of Game 5 of the World Series at 8:37 p.m. across the street at Citizens Bank Park.

Many fans attending the Sixers game were wearing Phillies attire in anticipation of the city's first major professional sports championship since 1983 when Philadelphia swept the Los Angeles Lakers.

In the second half, chants of "Let's Go Phillies!" began to resonate in parts of the arena, especially as fans began to file out. Elton Brand had 14 points and 13 rebounds in his Sixers debut and Montreal's Samuel Dalembert pulled down 17 rebounds.

Toronto outscored the Sixers 33-24 in the second quarter to take a 51-45 lead at halftime. Toronto led by as many as 14 in the second half and maintained a steady lead throughout most of the fourth quarter.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOM MIHALEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Raptors forward Jermaine O'Neal drives between the 76ers' Samuel Dalembert and Elton Brand last night.

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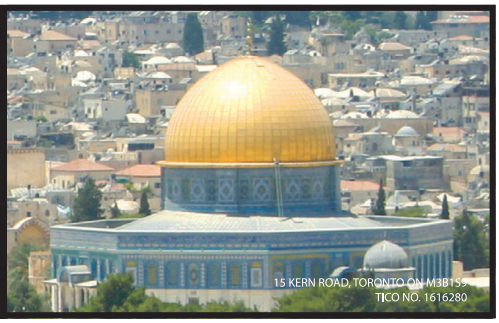
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Deadline officially moved back

NHL general managers will have one extra day to make trades this season. The league officially announced yesterday that it has pushed the trade deadline back to March 4. It had originally been scheduled for March 3, but a high volume of games forced the switch. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Leafs' second line an intriguing trio

So what, if anything, can be gleaned from the early returns on what promises to be a schizophrenic season of Toronto Maple Leafs hockey?

Strong efforts in wins against divisional rivals Boston and Ottawa were followed by a loss to the bottom-dwelling Bolts of Tampa Bay, where too many chances were surrendered to dangerous players such as Vincent Lecavalier.

Expect this to be the pattern this season, albeit with more losses (especially in the shootout) than wins, ultimately.

But in searching for silver linings, it's not hard to find good omens on the horizon. Clearly the team is set in goal for the next couple of years thanks to Vesa Toskala, and the defence corps has many solid elements. Luke Schenn has been a pleasant surprise, while Mike Van Ryn has clearly rediscovered the offensive skills that were hampered by injury in Florida. Pavel Kubina and Tomas Kaberle may seem like tempting trade bait either this season or next, but in reality, even a rebuilding team needs some stability while the transition is being made and either one is the logical choice for team captain when the C is granted.

It will shock no one that the bulk of the tear-down in Toronto will involve the forwards. While Nik Antropov and Alexei Ponikarovsky have been on a great run of late, someone always scores on a bad team and the Leafs don't even score that much. Cruise the depth charts around the league and you'll see the Buds' top line is one of the least intimidating. The names traditionally circled on opposing blackboards just aren't there.

But that's not what this season is about, so it's not a big deal. No, the lowered expectations of the Toronto brass are fine, because the trio of Mikhail Grabovski, Niklas Hagman and Nikolai Kulemin will be a fun one to watch for years.

Though the line hasn't exactly burned out the red light this season — and was even altered against the Bolts when Kulemin was dropped in favour of John Mitchell — it's the potential the three show together that is exciting.

Grabovski, essentially done a favour by a Montreal Canadiens team too deep at centre to play him, has brought unparalleled speed to the Leafs lineup this season, and Hagman's not too far behind.

While Hagman's breakout 2007-08 season with the Dallas Stars had many pundits predicting he would not repeat his 27-goal campaign, he has already shown the skill set that netted him that total last year. The amount of posts and near-misses both Hagman and Grabovski have had so far will eventually become goals.

Kulemin, who has already proved his worth in the shootout, also brings a grab-bag of offensive goodies to the table, but also a sneaky physical presence honed back in Russia.

Altogether, the three have looked like the Leafs' most dangerous combo so far, even if the scoresheet says otherwise. And while coach Ron Wilson has and will continue to experiment with different line combinations this season, this would be a perfect second line in the future.

The Hockey News thn.com

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*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. The Sprite "Throw Down for the Crown" Amateur Dunk Competition Open Tryout session is being held at 9:00 am on November 1, 2008 at Air Canada Center, Toronto, Ontario. Open to residents of Ontario over the age of majority. Fifteen (15) Top Dunkers, as selected by a panel of judges based upon the creativity, athleticism, and the completion of the dunk, will be eligible to win a basketball jersey and short set (size and style to be determined by contest sponsors) and two (2) tickets to a Raptors Home Basketball Game (specific date and seat location to be determined by contest sponsors) (ARV $200.00) and the chance to compete in one (1) of five (5) monthly semi-final Dunk Competitions to be held at a 2008-2009 Season Raptors Home Game. Each semi final dunk competition will consist of 3 Top Dunkers competing for the chance to be in the Final Top Dunk Competition. The winner of the semi-final and final dunk competitions will be determined by which contestant receives the most number of text message votes cast by the audience at each applicable Raptors home game. Limit one (1) text message vote per person per competition. Standard text message and cell phone fees will apply. The winner of the Final Top Dunker Competition will be eligible to win a Grand Prize consisting of a trip for two (2) to the NBA All-Star Weekend (location and dates to be determined in the sole discretion of Coca-Cola Ltd.; ARV $12, 500). For full contest details see www.spritebasketball.com. Some restrictions apply.

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Bishop to start vs. Argos
Michael Bishop will make his first appearance at Rogers Centre tonight since Toronto dealt him to Saskatchewan in late August. The move resolved a touchy quarterback controversy that was created when the Argos acquired '07 CFL MVP Kerry Joseph from Saskatchewan in March. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Maradona to coach Argentina

SOCCER Diego Maradona will become Argentina's soccer coach next week, leaving the team in the hands of a national icon whose achievements on the field have been undercut by a long history of erratic behaviour and drug abuse. The Argentine Football Association said on its website the appointment will be made Tuesday. Maradona is to replace Alfio Basile, who resigned following poor performances in qualifying for the 2010 World Cup.

Maradona led Argentina to a World Cup title in 1986 and to the championship game in 1990.

Sinclair gets FIFA nomination again

SOCCER Canadian Christine Sinclair is one of the 10 women's finalists for FIFA's World Player of the Year award. Sinclair, a 25-year-old from Burnaby, B.C., has scored 95 goals in 125 senior appearances for Canada. She was also nominated for the FIFA award the last two years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Carl Robinson took home Toronto FC's Player of the Year for the second straight season.

Robinson TFC's top player again

MLS Carl Robinson has been named Toronto FC's player of the year for the second season in a row.

The Welsh midfielder shared the award in 2007 with defender Jim Brennan in the MLS team's first campaign. Robinson started in all 27 Toronto FC games he played this season, missing the other three matches while on international duty.

Forward Chad Barrett won the team's Golden Boot award as top scorer after joining Toronto FC from the Chicago Fire on July 27. Arriving with five goals under his belt, Barrett scored four more for TFC.

Defender of the year honours went to Marvell Wynne, who scored two goals this season while picking up just one caution and 17 fouls.

Defender Todd Dunivant earned the nod for the team's U.S. Soccer Federation Humanitarian of the Year.

He was recognized for his work in the community, even after his season was cut short by an ankle injury that required surgery.

The awards, decided by player and staff voting, were announced Tuesday.

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Minor league pitcher indicted

A grand jury in Ohio has indicted a minor league pitcher accused of throwing a ball that hit a fan in the forehead. Julio Castillo, who was pitching for the Peoria Chiefs, an affiliate of the Chicago Cubs, is accused of throwing into the stands during a July game against Dayton that featured a 10-minute, benches-clearing brawl. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Olympics tickets selling fast

OLYMPICS Despite economic uncertainty, private ticket packages to the 2010 Olympics are selling out. CoSport, the official hospitality provider for the Vancouver Olympics, says all of the packages that included gold-medal hockey tickets are gone. CoSport says packages that include tickets to the opening ceremony are also going quickly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

T.O. runner faces $18K in medical bills

Fellow marathoners rally behind Danny Kassap after near-fatal heart attack

Canada's running community is once again rallying to support marathoner Danny Kassap.

The Congolese native, who was granted Canadian citizenship this past August after a seven-year struggle, is facing $18,000 in medical bills and a long road back from a heart attack that nearly killed him while running the Berlin Marathon on Sept. 28.

His friends and training partners with the University of Toronto Track Club are hoping to raise funds to cover the costs of Kassap's medical care through www.dannykassapfund.com.

"I think in many ways the track club and (coach) Ross Ristuccia have become like a family to him, and Ross has become like a surrogate father," said Jay Brecher, one of Kassap's training partners. "We certainly do regard Danny as being a member of our extended family, and we'll do anything possible to help him at a time like this."

The 25-year-old Kassap, one of Canada's top marathoners, was five kilometres into the 41.195-kilometre Berlin race when he suddenly collapsed due to heart failure. Paramedics worked on Kassap for 45 minutes, using a defibrillator to shock his heart, before his condition stabilized. He was placed in a medically-induced coma for several days, and remained in a Berlin hospital for over two weeks before he was able to return home to Toronto. His Ontario health insurance covered just a portion of the cost.

"It's a tragic situation for a guy so young," Ristuccia said. "It's not like he was on the tail end of his running career, he was just about to be really good."

"It's a tragic situation for a guy so young. He was just about to be really good."
Ross Ristuccia

The doctors determined that he suffered a ventricular fibrillation — a contraction of the cardiac muscle — brought on by inflammation of the heart, which was caused by a cold virus.

Kassap won't be able to run for at least the next three months, and his future as a competitive runner remains unclear.

"He's my assistant coach now," Ristuccia said. "It's good for him, and he's so well liked by the people he trains with. Danny is such a well-liked person, he's always got a smile on his face."

Kassap was striving to earn a spot on the Canadian marathon team for the world championships this August in Berlin.

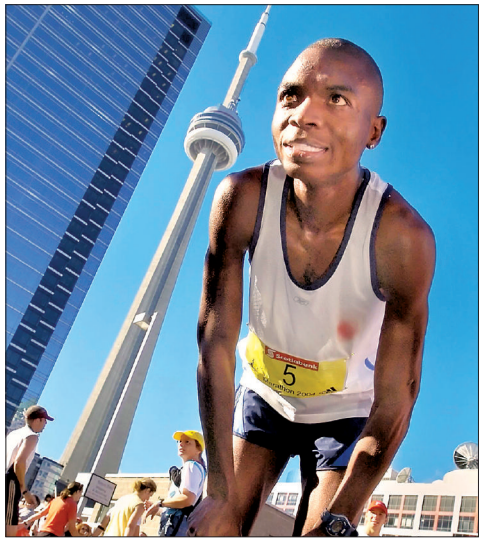
The wiry five-foot-seven runner fled to Canada during the 2001 Francophone Games to escape his war-torn homeland, but he remained in limbo for several years after his application for refugee status was rejected.

His University of Toronto teammates pooled their money to obtain an immigration lawyer, and Kassap was finally granted landed immigrant status in April, and his Canadian citizenship four months later.

"If it hasn't been one thing it's been another with Danny," Ristuccia said. "But one thing that it's done is made us all realize there are certain things we should do to keep care of ourselves. Plus, it could have happened on one of his morning runs, he could have been on one of the trails here running alone, and nobody would have found him in time."

Kassap won the Toronto Waterfront Marathon in 2004 in his first attempt at the distance, in a course record time of two hours 14 minutes 50 seconds. He was 15th, just three places behind reigning Olympic marathon champion Stefano Baldini, in the London Marathon this past April — the first time he was permitted to travel outside of Canada to race — in 2:15.20. His time ranks him as the second fastest Canadian this season behind Dylan Wykes of Kingston, Ont., (2:15.13).

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Danny Kassap, pictured here after winning the 2004 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, collapsed due to heart failure during last month's Berlin Marathon in Germany.

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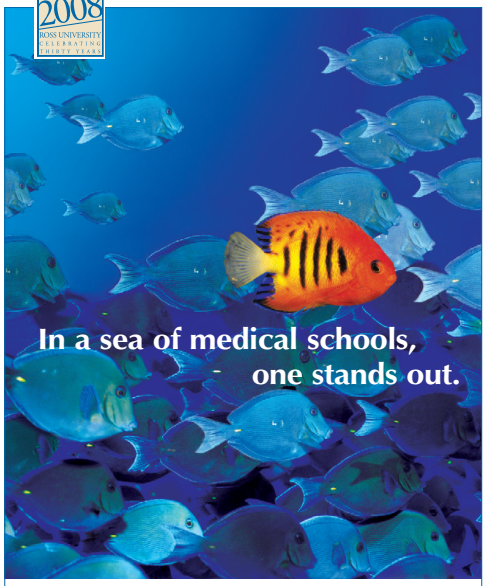

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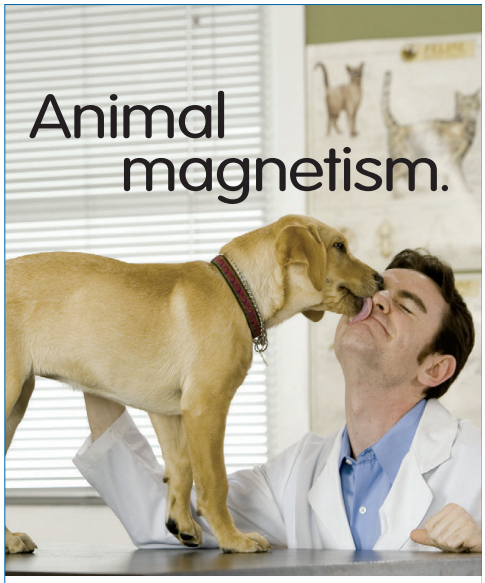

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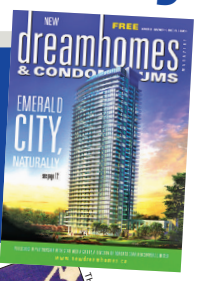


A carpet or a canvas?

Modern rugs becoming increasingly more about art than utility

Exciting things are afoot in the world of rugs: Wools and silks are sheared, sculpted, shagged and shaped into virtual works of art, crafted in luxurious textures and rich hues.

By nature, a carpet shares a kinship with an artist's canvas. It's up to homeowners whether to put these pieces on the wall or the floor.

Amy Helfand, a Chicago artist now based in New York City, says she made her first rug for an art show at the public garden Wave Hill, in the Bronx. The rug's design was based on the garden's site plan, and the finished product was displayed in front of a fireplace in the old mansion on the property.

"I like the way a rug creates and fills a space that people can inhabit. I love the tactile aspect of rugs, especially the combination of wool and silk … there's a depth," Helfand says.

How does she feel about people walking on her artwork?

"My rugs are pretty demanding — they don't fade into the background of a room," she says. "The people who buy them appreciate them that way, so how they get used doesn't bother me."

Courtney Bush, who runs the online home decor shop Bunny Maxwell, thinks people are becoming more comfortable expressing themselves through their homes. She's particularly taken with using strong colours and patterns to accent a neutral palette.

Her new collections of cotton dhurries and tufted wools and silks reflect her obvious affinity for nature themes and flamboyantly elegant graphics.

"Personal style shouldn't be confined to your wardrobe," says Bush.

Interior designer Graunk Enzenberger, who is also a principal of Chicago's OrangeSkin, a modern-decor retailer and design consultancy, sees rugs trending toward a "more 3-D look, with the more complicated patterns working best in the same or similar colours, especially bold colours." OrangeSkin's 1960s linked daisy rug, by Jose A. Gandia, fits the esthetic in a playful fashion.

Crate and Barrel also reaches back in time to offer a spicy-toned shag carpet, a foil for the new tailored furniture.

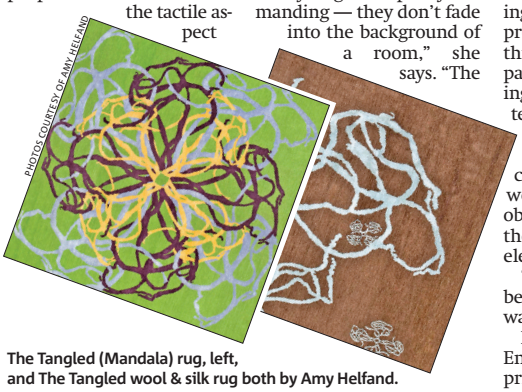
In Europe, Belgium's Floor to Heaven, the floor covering line created by German-born designer Michaela Schleypen, is generating buzz with some unusual rugs like the textural Moon and In the Woods, featuring a faux bois pattern in soft caramel tones.

Denmark's Bo Concept, which has retail stores and studios in the United States and abroad, and also sells online, offers Flow — waves of colour that eddy across the floor — and the circular Boas, with a striking black and white zinnia graphic.

Some of these rugs come at a price, yet may be good investments because of their quality and artistic value.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLOTH HAY TO FLOOR


PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMY HELFAND

The Tangled (Mandala) rug, left, and The Tangled wool & silk rug both by Amy Helfand.

FLOOR TO HEAVEN PHOTO

The Moon rug, left, and the In the Woods rug, above, by Floor to Heaven.

THE RUG COMPANY PHOTO

BUNNY MAXWELL PHOTO

THE RUG COMPANY PHOTO

THE RUG COMPANY PHOTO

This top-left photo shows Marni's Overleaf rug, the Thomas Paul's Feather Rug is second from the top, Kim Parker's Mums and Asters Rug can be seen third from the top and Suzanne Sharp's Key Shadow rug is seen at the bottom.

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Decor

Read more in the November issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine. ON SALE NOW! styleathome.com | CANADA'S styleathome

Dining in

Country casual gets a modern update

HOME & STYLE A contemporary update on casual country entertaining, a dining room decked out in ash veneer, rattan and grey-washed mahogany hits just the right rustic note. Shelton dining table, $1,699, Emerson dining chairs, $349 each, Pottery Barn, *potterybarn.ca* for stores. — BRETT WALTHER

Step on it

Couturiers take on fashionable floors

HOME & STYLE All runways lead to home! Bespoke carpet company Source UK has collaborated with five of the country's top couturiers for the Canadian Fashion Designer Series. These fashions for the floor sport the designers' signature approaches to style. Above, a concept sketch for a custom-designed carpet by Arthur Mendonça. From $65 per square foot, Source UK, 416-357-5007 or *sourceuk.ca* for info. — BRETT WALTHER

You're invited!

Paper invitations are a rarity these days, but they're so nice to receive

Here are a few invitations that the editors of Style at Home wouldn't mind getting in the mail. Above right, Kate Spade's Reindeer Games fill-in, $27 per box of 10 and right, Crane's Wreath fill-in, $23 per box of 10. Both available at William Ashley, 800-268-1122; Toronto, 416-964-9200; Mississauga, Ont., 905-566-8500; *williamashley.com*.

Clockwise from near left, custom-printed Stags in red, $78 US per 20, Iomoi, *shopiomoi.com*; a custom-mixed CD with music evoking the party theme lets guests get into the spirit beforehand; Comfort and Joy fill-in, $22 per pack of eight, Pantry Press, *pantrypress.net*; custom-printed Cutlery card from Tools Signature series, $24 per pack of eight cards and nine envelopes, Haute Note, *hautenote.com*.

NINA TEIXEIRA

High/low **An eye-catching ice bucket lets you chill out with panache**

Forgot to chill the drinks and your guests are due soon? Resist the temptation to pop that bottle into the freezer (bad idea) or even the fridge. Tucked into an ice bucket filled with equal parts cold water and ice, a bottle will chill twice as fast as it would in a fridge. These beauties will get the job done in style.

Vera Wang for Wedgwood's Love Knots silver-plated, $175, Waterford Wedgwood, *waterfordwedgwood.ca*.

Modern Morocco crystal hurricane, $195, Elte, *elte.com*.

Silver-plated with octagonal handles, $215, Elte, *elte.com*.

Ceramic vase, $170, Barbara Barry Realized by Henredon at Studio B, *studiobhome.com*.

Marina aluminum, $32, Stacaro Home Interiors, *stacaro.com*.

STACEY BRANDFORD

A detailed party-planning to-do list can make entertaining so much easier

KIM CHRISTIE

Rosie Daykin

When it comes to giving parties, Rosie Daykin, co-owner of Vancouver bakery Butter Baked Goods, is big on preparation. Here's how she plans ahead:

7 days before

- Make master list of everything that needs to be done before the party.
- Plan menu.
- Write out grocery lists by shopping location (market, butcher, bakery, etc.). List other items to buy, such as flowers and liquor.
- Ensure you have all necessary dishware, glassware and servingware. Make lists of things you need to buy, rent or borrow.

5 or 6 days before

- Pick up liquor.
- Buy or borrow dishware or other missing items.

3 or 4 days before

- Grocery shop (except for meat, fish and other perishables that must be fresh).

1 or 2 days before

- Clean the house.
- Buy and set out flowers.

1 day before

- Make list of what you're cooking, breaking every dish down into tasks (i.e., don't write "Make salad," but "Wash lettuce, roast pine nuts, make dressing.")
- Do any advance cooking like make-ahead desserts.
- Set table.
- Grocery shop for meat, fish and other perishables.

Day of party

- Tidy up any last-minute small messes.
- Cook meal.

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Autumn offers up delicious garden colours and flavours

SEASONS Mums may be a mainstay of the fall garden, but they're not the only plant that thrives during the season's cool, moist weather.

Plenty of flowers and vegetables breathe life into the garden this time of year. But you need both to plan and to exercise some restraint if you're going to have a vibrant fall garden. In spring and early summer, force yourself to set aside some space in the garden for late-season flowers and vegetables.

ANNUALS: The perfect flower would bloom all season long and keep pumping out colourful flowers on into frosty weather. Annual flowers are the ones that offer the longest season of bloom, but by now many kinds show only remnants of their summer glory. That said, a few are still smothered with blossoms. These include pot marigold (calendula), alyssum, California poppy and snapdragon.

PERENNIALS: What perennial flowers lack in duration of bloom they make up for with concentration of bloom. And what better way to welcome autumn than with colourful blossoms that reserved their opening for just that season? Some of the finest perennial flowers for fall include monkshood, sedum, boltonia, perennial sunflowers and, of course, asters.

LEE REICH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Asters are among the plants that can provide colour in the garden well into fall. This photo shows New York asters.

VEGETABLES: Let's wander through the garden gate into the vegetable garden. There are plenty of carrots, turnips and beets, of course, but it is endive, arugula, lettuce, spinach, celery and Chinese cabbages that look as tender and fresh as if it were spring. With a little protection, these greens can make fresh salads for weeks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liens do matter

Q I recently purchased a new home and after a few months, I had some work done on the second bathroom and had the basement finished. The bathroom work was fine but the contractor I hired to finish the basement did a very poor job with bad wiring, plumbing and drywalling. I am refusing to pay him the full amount and will probably need someone to come in and fix what he has done. What should I be aware of?

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanandtaylor.com

A Unfortunately, you are not alone when it comes to problems with contractors and the subcontractors that they hire to complete the work. Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of very good trade people out there who do excellent work.

However, it is the exception that I always hear about.

In terms of people who work on construction projects, they have a right to register a construction lien against the property they work on for unpaid work up to 45 days after they substantially complete all work on the project.

This does not mean coming back to put an electrical cover on a plug socket. However, placing large pieces of drywall would probably constitute substantial work.

If they are past that date, they can still pursue you for unpaid invoices in court but they cannot place a valid lien on the property.

Once the lien has been placed on the property, the contractor has another 45 days to "perfect" the lien by filing a Statement of Claim with the Superior Court of Ontario.

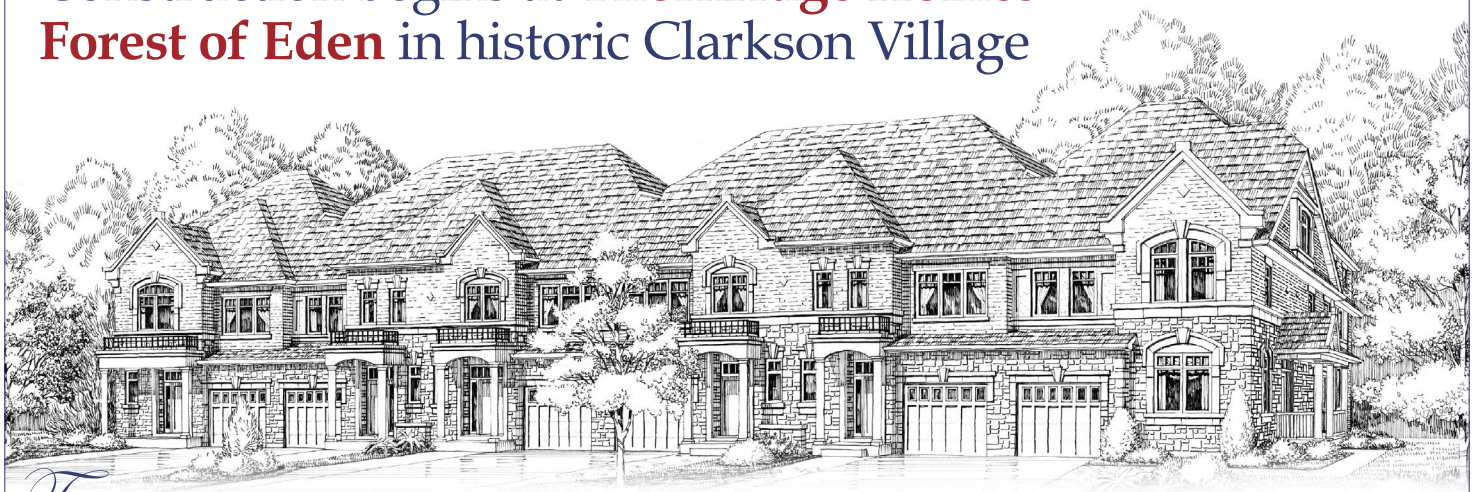
Usually, contractors are quite savvy to this process and won't miss these dates if you are raising a fuss and refusing to pay bills. What a lien effectively does is block you from completing any transactions on your home such as re-financing or selling the property. You can pay the amount of money claimed into court to have the lien removed in order to complete transactions but you still need to battle it out with the contractor in order to decide what is payable.

This is a very specialized area of the courts and I usually refer my clients to a trustworthy and experienced practitioner who specializes in this area of law. Let's hope you aren't involved in a construction lien as it can be a frustrating and costly process.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is the principal of Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors. The information contained in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Construction begins at Thornridge Homes' Forest of Eden in historic Clarkson Village



The charming Village of Clarkson is a unique and special place in Mississauga near the lake. With its historic homes and family-friendly feel, it's a neighbourhood where the locals stroll on a Saturday morning to nearby boutiques, café's and shops.

In the heart of this sought-after community, Thornridge Homes is now building The Forest of Eden, a collection of beautiful freehold or freehold condominium townhomes next to Sheridan Creek near Lakeshore Road and Southdown Road.

Sales have been strong at the Forest of Eden, and construction is now underway. You'll find 2-storey and 2-car garage designs plus a choice of ravine lots as well as dramatic three-storey elevations. This collection of townhomes features classic designs with timeless elegance up to 2,400 sq. ft. of living space starting from $419,990 to the mid $500's. The attractive exteriors are a mix of brick and stone finishing. Luxury standard features include main floor 9' ceilings, colonial 5" baseboards, extended upper cabinets and granite countertops in kitchen, main floor hardwood floors and gas fireplaces with wood mantels and marble surround.

"With its historic homes and family-friendly feel, it's a neighbourhood where the locals stroll on a Saturday morning to nearby boutiques, café's and shops"

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Historic Clarkson celebrated its 200th Anniversary this year and it's no wonder the community has become so sought-after. This neighbourhood offers just about every amenity within a short walk. There is no need to fight the traffic running weekend errands since the Clarkson Cross Shopping Centre is just across the street. A stroll around the corner to Lakeshore Road takes one through the old Clarkson Village neighbourhood with its charming shops, bistros and cafés.

Transportation connections are a breeze, with the Clarkson GO station within walking distance for an easy commute to downtown Toronto in less than 20 minutes. And the QEW and Hwy 403 are a short 5-minute drive away.

If you're looking for a more active lifestyle, the Ontario Racquet Club is just one block away and the Clarkson Community Centre and Library are a short three-minute drive. And you're so close to parkland and conservation areas, including the Waterfront Trail system and Rattray Marsh.

Sound like your kind of neighbourhood? To learn more about Thornridge Homes Forest of Eden, visit www.thornridgehomes.com or call 905.855.9393. Sales office hours are 11am - 6pm daily. Closed Friday.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Surf's up at Shorelands

Canada's first LEED townhouse community is now open

Liza Communities has opened the doors to Canada's greenest new townhouse community — Shorelands in Whitby.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this one-of-a-kind residential community that has already been included in a prestigious group of residential developments across Canada, selected to participate in the Canada Green Building Council's LEED for Homes (LEED-H) program.

In addition to the construction of energy-efficient homes, the LEED standard encompasses a wide range of exacting criteria. The stringent requirements ensure the best green practices, both within homes and within the community at large, creating even greater environmental sustainability. In result, Liza's Shorelands community will serve as a model for environmentally sensitive home building.

As Canada's first LEED townhouse community, Shorelands is a neighbourhood of distinction. A total of 227 homes make up this intimate village of walkways and garden vistas, and the community's inclusion of significant public spaces, including a formal garden, on-site amphitheatre and easy access to the Lynde Shores Conservation Area make the community one-of-a-kind.

Liza Communities Vice-President Maryam Mansouri demonstrated the passion and emotion of those involved with Shorelands, calling the project "an icon for Liza's evolution." Pointing to the company's long history building quality communities throughout Durham, Mansouri suggested that this latest development "builds on what already exists; by maintaining a commitment to our core values, we are adding a new urban, contemporary component to the homes Liza builds."

"We are committed to becoming a sustainable community," said Whitby's mayor Pat Perkins. "We need equally committed stewardship, like that shown by Liza."

Ontario's chief energy conservation officer Peter Love echoed the mayor's support for Liza's efforts to create sustainable, green communities and even presented Maryam Mansouri and Liza with a Certificate of Recognition.

More than just the sum of its green features, Shorelands is a master-planned community that offers thoughtfully designed streetscapes with a range of compelling details and accents, as well as innovative home designs.

Among these, purchasers will be able to select from 49 three-storey townhomes, priced from $249,990, which range in size from 1,500 to 1,700 square feet. Other highly desirable plans include stacked townhomes, which offer studio and two-storey designs, as well as two-storey-with-loft layouts. These stacked towns range in size from 540 to 1,200 square feet and start at $169,990.

Every townhouse at Shorelands is finished in brick and Hardie Board — an environmentally sensitive and durable exterior finishing treatment. Additionally, all units will place a strong emphasis on livable, green outdoor spaces.

Each home offers terraces or balconies with composite deck tiling on floors and railings made of tempered glass and aluminum rails. The interiors all feature large country kitchens and several windows for plenty of natural light. The floors are finished in laminate, ceramic tiles and recycled carpet and homes are built beyond Energy Star standards, including a combination of a high-velocity natural gas heating system and thermal fixed glass low-E windows.

According to Peter Love, it's the design of the homes which belies their sustainability, making them the perfect model for green development.

A view of the LEED townhouse community's yard.

"These townhomes look so good, it will be hard to tell they're environmentally efficient," he cautioned, adding that "these lucky buyers will need to tell their friends; they need to be noisy about it and get everyone to move towards a culture of efficiency!"

As Canada's first LEED townhouse community, Liza agrees with Peter Love ... Shorelands is a neighbourhood worth talking about! For more information about Shorelands, visit us today at our Presentation Centre located in the Whitby Shores Shopping Centre at the corner of Victoria Street West and Gordon Street. You can also visit theshorelands.com or call 1-877-LIZA-LIFE (1-877-540-2543).

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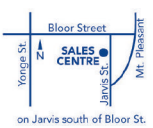

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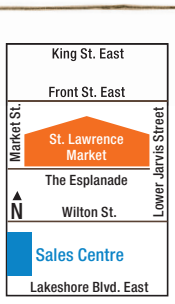

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Making a stylish splash at home

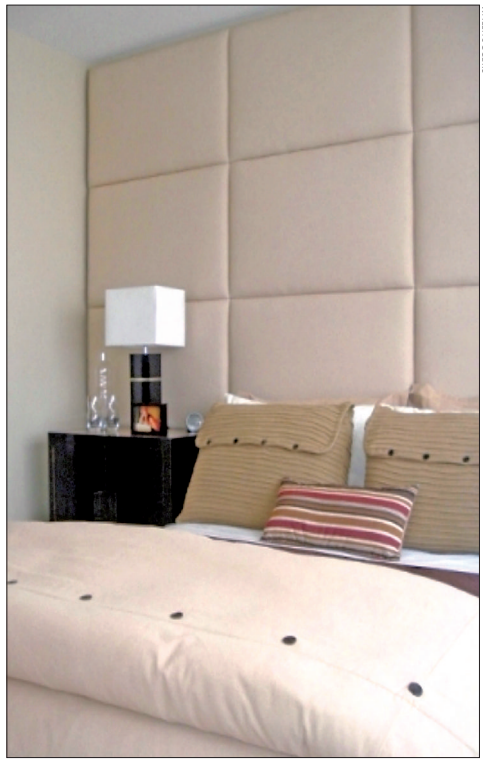
Padded and upholstered Wallhuggers are ideal for adding richness, interest

HomeScape

WALLHUGGERS

Wallhuggers, created by Connie Beland, are panels that attach to a wall to serve as elegant focal points in virtually any kind of room.

WALLHUGGERS



Wallhuggers can be mounted together to create a headboard, or they can fill part of a wall or even a full wall.

Every once in a while, you see a stylish and unique home decor product that really grabs your attention. For me, this product is what originator Connie Beland calls a wallhugger — an upholstered and padded panel with a hard back that attaches to the wall.

These panels can be mounted beside each other to create a rectangular headboard, or they can be mounted to fill part of a wall or a full wall. These plush and cushy-looking panels look absolutely smashing in a bedroom as a headboard, a larger board or even as a wall covering that serves as an elegant focal point. This is how they are most often used by her customers, says Beland.

A few customers have also asked for them in an entertainment centre like a den or a home theatre room, for example. Not only do they add a feeling of richness, these panels also provide some soundproofing.

Cambridge, Ont.,-based Beland first came up with the idea of using wooden-backed upholstered panels as headboards when she was helping her daughter decorate her new condo. The headboad, needless to say, became a big hit. In fact, her daughter's friends started clamouring for their own, and their reaction gave Beland the confidence to launch her own company called — you guessed it — Wallhuggers (www.wallhuggers.ca).

Ultimately, wallhugger panels can be used in almost any room to add stylish interest to a wall. However, in areas where a lot of cleaning is required, like a bathroom or the backsplash area of the kitchen, choose a fabric that can be easily cleaned.

Usually, they are put up in a series of identical panels — three or four in a row to look like a headboard, or a series of two or three stacked rows, or even enough to fill a wall from floor to ceiling.

People don't often mix panel sizes or fabrics, says Beland, but a more adventurous design is possible, especially if the wallhugger panels cover the whole wall in, say, a checkerboard design, or vertical or horizontal stripes. Using squares of different sizes could also produce a pleasing random effect.

As for fabrics, the faux leathers and suedes remain as popular as ever and continue to look especially sharp in ultra-modern settings. But textural fabrics are getting big, says Beland. "Fabrics like chenille and other woven materials, I'm seeing it everywhere." Linens are getting popular as well; the nubby, natural-looking texture of linen fits beautifully in bedrooms with naturally based fibres, fabrics and finishes.

Beland says a more traditional look can be created by using panels with button tufting: Buttons in the middle such as that you'd find in some upholstered furniture.

Soothing neutral colours are often used for bedrooms, such as chocolate brown, cream and beige. But bright colours like fire-engine red or royal blue can look wonderfully vibrant, and they work really well in children's rooms.

On the web

- Beland does not have a retail location, since she sells mostly online. On her website (www.wallhuggers.ca), she has a selection of five different panel sizes and over 100 fabrics, and you can also choose your own fabric.
- Prices range from $75 to $250 per panel, depending on the fabric.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in home decor and design. She has written extensively for the TV show Arresting Design.

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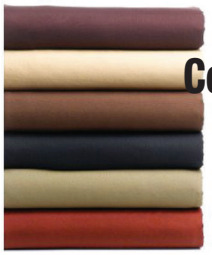

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New dreamhomes & condominiums Magazine
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Medicine cabinets made easy

Here's a do-it-yourself job for the bathroom that may appear harder than it actually is: Replacing or adding a medicine cabinet.

The mirrored bathroom cabinet is a bathroom multi-tasker, functioning as a storage space, hiding place, and beauty and grooming station. It's a handy accessory, but you don't have to be a handyman (or woman) to install one. You can buy one at a home improvement or specialty store for $100 to $1,000.

"It's one of those projects that you say is going to take you all day, and you do it in an hour," said Karen Collins, marketing communications manager for Broan-NuTone LLC.

Medicine cabinets can be affixed to the wall or be recessed a few centimetres inside the wall. Recessed cabinets allow for better ease of movement around the vanity because they don't stick out as much as those hung on the wall.

Replacing an existing medicine cabinet involves less work than installing a new one, to be sure. For replacement jobs, homeowners should make sure that their new cabinet matches the length and width of the rough opening of the old one. The old cabinet usually can be easily removed by simply taking out screws that held it in place and pulling it out.

Someone will have to hold the new cabinet steady while the other person screws it into the wall.

Mirrored doors can open either to the left or to the right. When you buy a new medicine cabinet, make sure you know which way it swings open to avoid walls and ensure full range of movement.

When installing a new recessed cabinet, the most important step is to make sure there is no plumbing or electrical wires in the wall.

Recessed cabinets are mounted on wall studs, and many of them have mounting screws installed through the inside of the cabinet. Wall-hung cabinets can be screwed into the two-by-fours inside the wall, allowing for stability as drywall alone is not strong enough. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KOHLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo shows Kohler's Purist mirrored cabinet and slide-out wood shelf and Purist wall-mount cabinet.

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Ghoulishly scary house hunting campfire stories

On this, Halloween Eve, I'm reminded of some of the scariest things I've come across this year, in and around the facet of real estate. Allow me to share these gruesome memories with you all.

I remember a buyer who had moved to our country less than 18 months prior and had been swindled into buying a completely dilapidated home at the will of a crooked agent. Current market conditions aside, the home had been forced upon him at $20,000 above market value, purchased at $180,000. The mistreated buyer was put in touch with me through a mutual friend, when the buyer lost his job and could no longer make the mortgage payments. I will spare you the details of how the buyer ended up in the hole more than $25,000 albeit free and clear from any debt, but the point remains that Halloween isn't the only time of year when cruel and thoughtless goons lurk in the shadows.

I also remember a few months back taking a young couple on condo showings in the North York area. The building was actually one of the higher-class buildings in the area. Upon arriving a pungent odour greeted our nostrils. It wasn't food or bad perfume, it was in fact rotting garbage. We entered to find the man of the house walking around in a very unflattering pair of boxers. Upon inspecting the washroom we realized that the flush must have been broken. Needless to say the washroom was the last thing we inspected in that particular unit. The people living in the unit were tenants, who did not want the place to sell, as they would be forced to look for new accommodations. So if you are now, or ever plan to be, a landlord, always remember that a good tenant is worth their weight in gold. Also remember that it's never a bad idea to ensure that other relevant documentation be signed along with the actual rental agreements.

A few weeks ago I received an e-mail from a Metro reader that really made my skin crawl. They had purchased a home through a "member of the family." Upon entering the home on the closing date the basement walls had half a dozen fist sized holes in them, the stairs' carpet had been used as kitty litter, and the upstairs toilet had been left to run, allowing water to spread not only onto the floor and carpets but seep into the actual framework of the structure. The contract included no conditions protecting the buyers' interests. No lawyer was used. The vendors had since fled the country. This horror story would never have come to pass had the proper conditions and checks been carried out, and herein lies the lesson. It's always important to carry out a home inspection, especially when the home is no longer under Tarion Warranty, and that means taking pictures and notes. Unfortunately it's not the truth that matter, but what you can prove.

Upon arriving a pungent odour greeted our nostrils. It wasn't food or bad perfume, it was in fact rotting garbage.

Finally, just the other day I was faced with a unique situation involving the sale of a condo unit in the downtown core. The issue was that the door on the unit just next door had clearly been broken. There were also stories circulating about a police drug raid. I called my contacts in the appropriate division and a raid had indeed taken place. Of course many of us would automatically be turned off by such news but this buyer was of the impression that crime can happen anywhere. In this case at least he stood to save a few thousand dollars, and that made it worth pursuing, for him. The important thing to understand when faced with a less than generic real estate issue is that answers are always available — you only need to make the effort to find them. Upon speaking with some of Toronto's finest, we were made aware the fact that it had been over six months since the raid, which was actually a positive thing because by then word of the raid has spread and the area is no longer a dark zone. Five years from now this buyer will have likely earned an extra $25,000 on top of what the normal appreciation would have been.

There you have it. A few of the eeks and freaks I've faced this year. I hope you have a safe and fun Halloween. Happy Hunting.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

Storage
Store whole squash in a cool, well-ventilated dry place. In ideal conditions, hard squashes can last two to three months. Once cut, wrap in plastic, store in fridge and use within a few days. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"Choose squash that is heavy for its size. Look for hard squash; the skin should be dry and free of cracks or soft spots."
Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Butternut
When it comes to butternut, the seeds are in the hollow bulb end, so pick one with a small bulb end and a thick neck.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

My gourd! It's squash season

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

With Halloween on our doorstep, gourds, pumpkins and squashes are at their peak of availability now and through the coming months. Winter squashes come in an interesting and wide variety of size, shape, colour, texture and flavour. They're also wonderfully versatile — in a warming soup; served mashed or roasted; or puréed and used in baking (think pumpkin pie or muffins).

Butternut is a relatively easy squash to peel and has a rich flavour and colour.

Roast Squash, Onion and Garlic Soup

Any squash can be used in this recipe; however butternut is one of the easiest to peel and has a rich flavour and colour. Roasting the squash, onion and garlic brings out a caramelized sweetness. Serve with crusty whole grain bread. Makes about 10 cups (2.5 L), 6 to 8 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 butternut squash (about 3 lbs/1.5 kg)
- 3 onions
- 1 bulb garlic
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 tsp (5 ml) dried thyme leaves
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried rosemary leaves, crumbled
- Pinch each coarse salt and pepper
- 5 cups (1.25 L) vegetable or chicken broth

METHOD:
Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Peel and cut squash into 2-inch (5 cm) chunks. Peel and cut onions into wedges. Separate cloves of garlic, but do not peel. In large bowl, toss vegetables with oil, thyme, rosemary, salt and pepper. Spread in a large shallow roasting pan and roast 40 to 50 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally.

When garlic is cool enough to handle, squeeze the softened cloves out of their skins. In batches, purée roasted vegetables with broth until smooth. Transfer to a saucepan, and heat until hot for serving. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Squash tips:
- Prep: Cutting some of the larger squashes can be a challenge. You can soften the skin by placing the whole squash in the microwave for a few minutes to make cutting a little easier. You can bake a whole squash, but it cooks faster when halved. Place cut side down in a baking dish with ½ inch (1 cm) water to keep it moist. Or pierce a squash in many places and cook it whole in the microwave until tender. Cut in half and remove seeds.
- Good for you: Squash are a very good source of vitamins A, C & B6, potassium, manganese, dietary fibre, riboflavin and folate.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Top 10 spooky brews...

as seen in the Sept./Oct. issue of Draft Magazine

10 **Dead Reckoning Porter** by Troegs Brewing Co.
9 **The Headless Man** by Tyranena Brewing Co.
8 **Horny Devil** by AleSmith Brewing Co.
7 **Night Owl Pumpkin Ale** by Elysian Brewing Co.
6 **Raven's Eye** by Eel River Brewing Co.
5 **Hop Goblin IPA** by R&B Brewing Co.
4 **Witch's Brew** by 5 Seasons Brewing Co.
3 **Ghost Rail Pale Ale** by Boulder Creek Brewing Co.
2 **Halloween Ale** by Gritty McDuff's
1 **Deathly Pale Ale** by ReaperAle Brewing Co.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Divine evening with food, wine

FUNDRAISING On Sunday, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario in proud partnership with the Italian Trade Commission presents Vino della Vita at Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St. More than 100 of Italy's top vintners offer exclusive tastings of the country's finest wines and grappas — all generously provided by the Italian Trade Commission. Enjoy it with a mouth-watering menu of gourmet Italian food pairings while in the presence of exquisite portraits of movie legends Sophia Loren, Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Lauren Bacall. Tickets $150. Visit heartandstroke.ca/vinodellavita.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Billy's Best Bottles

"I'm asking you to put fashion and trends aside for a week and to buy a few bottles of wine that your parents might have drunk. I'm doing this because there are some great 'oldie goldie' wine brands out there to buck trends." To read the full column, visit metronews.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ghoulish feast for your little monsters

Halloween is one of the best times of the year for kids, but parents worry about all that candy! To help satisfy the kids' needs for festive fare while keeping on top of good nutrition, Dairy Farmers of Canada is releasing three spooky, spectacular Halloween recipes. Get these and other fabulous recipes featuring Canadian dairy products at dairygoodness.ca.

DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

Thick potato Canadian Cheddar soup suspends the cranberries in the image of an eyeball. Make in advance and serve with a green salad for a spooktacular dinner or lunch.

Bloodshot Eyeball Soup

Canadian White Cheddar and Potato Soup with a Cranberry Swirl.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 cup (250 mL) chopped onion
- ½ cup (125 mL) chopped celery
- 4 cups (1L) peeled and diced yellow fleshed or oblong potatoes (about 3 large)
- 4 cups (1 L) reduced-sodium chicken stock
- 1-½ cups (375 mL) shredded Canadian old white Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup (250 mL) low fat sour cream (5% M.F.)
- 6 tbsp (90 mL) canned whole cranberry sauce

METHOD:

In large pot, melt butter over medium heat; cook garlic, onion and celery stirring for 3 to 5 min or until onion is softened. Add potatoes and chicken stock; bring to boil, over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally for about 10 to15 min or until potatoes are tender.

In a blender, in batches, or with an immersion blender, puree until smooth; return to pot, if necessary. (Make-ahead: Cover and refrigerate up to 2 days.) Stir in cheese and sour cream; heat over low heat until cheese melts.

Spoon 1 tbsp (15 mL) cranberry sauce in centre of each shallow bowl and ladle soup around cranberries, not covering so it appears as an eyeball. Serve immediately.

Breakfast Brain Pudding

This recipe is a delicious twist on classic rice pudding and it is full of nutrients for the kids.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups (500 mL) water
- 2 sticks cinnamon
- 1 cup (250 mL) quinoa, rinsed well
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) cornstarch
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cinnamon
- 1-½ cups (375 mL) 2% milk
- ¼ cup (50 mL) maple syrup
- ¾ cup (175 mL) dried cranberries or raisins
- 1 cup (250 mL) French vanilla yogourt (1% M. F.) or more to taste
- Suggested Toppings: cinnamon sugar, chopped walnuts, dried cranberries, berries and/or diced apples

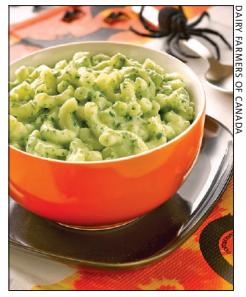
METHOD:

In medium saucepan, bring water and cinnamon stick to a boil over high heat; stir in quinoa. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 12 min or until quinoa is tender. Drain any excess liquid and remove cinnamon sticks; set aside. In small bowl, combine cornstarch, sugar and cinnamon.

In same saucepan whisk milk, maple syrup and cranberries; bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low; whisk in cornstarch mixture and cook stirring, for about 1 min or until slightly thickened. Stir in quinoa and cook stirring occasionally, for 5 min or until slightly thickened. Refrigerate for 1 hr or until cool. Stir in yogourt. (The pudding will thicken considerably as it cools; add yogurt to desired consistency.) Serve with suggested toppings.

DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

Milk and quinoa (KEEN-Wah) play the star role in this simple, nutritious breakfast or dessert dish.



DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

You can whip this up as fast as a cauldron of goo.

Green and Gooey Macaroni & Cheese

Before all of the frightful sugary treats, fill your little one's bellies with wholesome goodness of Macaroni and Canadian Cheese.

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups (750 mL) enriched macaroni or other small pasta (6 cups/1.5 L cooked)
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) butter
- 2 cups (500 mL) broccoli florets
- ¾ cup (175 mL) chopped onion
- ½ tsp (2 mL) nutmeg (or to taste)
- 1-½ cup (375 mL) 2% milk
- 1 cup (250 mL) 35% whipping cream
- 2 cups (500 mL) packed spinach or Arugula leaves
- 3 cups (750 mL) shredded Canadian old white Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup (250 mL) freshly grated Canadian Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper

METHOD:

In large pot of boiling salted water, cook pasta for 8 min or according to package directions, until tender; drain well.

Meanwhile in a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat; cook broccoli and onion until softened, about 3 min. Stir in nutmeg. Add milk and cream; cook stirring often, for 8 to 10 min or until slightly thickened and broccoli is tender. Stir in spinach and remove from heat. In a blender, in batches, puree until smooth. Stir in macaroni to coat; stir in Canadian Cheddar and Parmesan cheese until melted. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Let stand for 5 min before serving. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Do you *or someone you know* suffer from Menopausal
HOT FLASHES?

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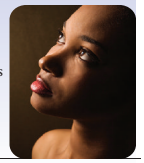

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Are you currently experiencing
POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION?

Many new mothers experience a brief period of the "postpartum blues" that is considered in the normal range of health and usually ends one week after birth. However, 13% of mothers develop a clinically serious **postpartum depression.**

If you have recently given birth and are experiencing:

- Feeling sad or bouts of crying
- Feeling hopeless or worthless
- Loss of energy and difficulty concentrating
- Feeling unable to cope

You may have postpartum depression.

If you are interested in participating in research on postpartum depression please call
416.535.8501 x1750

camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

Choo launches its first eyewear line
Luxury brand Jimmy Choo recently launched its first collection of stylish ophthalmic frames and sunglasses. The limited edition collection will be available exclusively at high-end eyewear specialists across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Makeup looks created for Halloween

Put your most creatve face forward with a series of Halloween looks created exclusively by MAC Cosmetics artists using MAC make-up products. The top 10 looks, called MAC Fantasticals, can be seen at maccosmetics.com with instructions on what products are needed and how to apply it to achieve the look. Eighteen additional faces can be viewed on Facebook (facebook.com) by typing in "MAC Cosmetics." Contact your nearest MAC location to inquire about products or get more tips on applying these looks. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Dressing for black tie: Bond-style

Emulating 007's fashion sense means sticking to convention

RUSSELL SMITH
for Metro Canada

TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Pull off Bond's chic style with classic touches: small bow tie, fitted single-breasted jacket with one or two buttons, white piqué shirt, cufflinks and peak or shawl lapels.

First, let's get the terminology straight: Bond would never use the word tuxedo. That's an Americanism. He would say "dinner jacket." On an invitation — to an embassy, say, or a casino — it would say "black tie."

And what he means by this is very strict. Even in an age when celebrities interpret black tie to mean any variation on a black suit (long ties, white ties, black shirts, whatever), James Bond would stick to the letter of convention for formal wear. That means classic black, with a small bow tie. A fitted single-breasted jacket with one or two buttons (no more!). Peak lapels or shawl lapels (the rounded ones), with satin or ribbed silk facing. One black ribbon down the outseam of each trouser leg. The trousers have no cuffs at the hem, nor do they have belt loops — they are held up by suspenders, or by an adjusting self-belt.

Shirt: white piqué — that's the waffle texture, also known as marcella — with a regular turned-down collar. Pleated shirt fronts are falling out of fashion. Your shirt will have studs, not buttons, and the studs will match your cufflinks. (Oh yes, you will have cufflinks). Your shoes — now listen closely, because this is crucial — your shoes must be plain shiny black lace-up Oxfords. James Bond himself probably owns a pair of extra-shiny patent leather shoes just for black tie, but you don't have to.

Should you own a dinner jacket? Of course you should. Renting is absurdly expensive, and the "formalwear" chains, which focus on weddings rather than on Bond-style dinner parties, tend to push you towards the garish. Start shopping for your tuxedo in January, when the big party season is over and formal wear goes on sale.

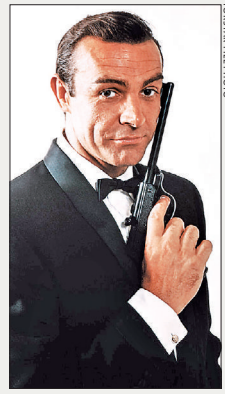
If you're not in a high income-bracket, you can skip the high-end retailers like Harry Rosen and Holt Renfrew. Since fashion doesn't influence this outfit much, a plain black dinner jacket from The Bay, or from your local conservative men's store, is perfectly acceptable — and can be found on sale for under $1,000. Designer names are not important in this field. An even cheaper option is to order one online from the Vancouver-based company Indochino (indochino.com). It gives you instructions on how to measure yourself, you e-mail your measurements in and they have the suit made in Shanghai. And the basic dinner jacket, which is 100 per cent wool, is $325.

• For more Bond coverage, see Rick McGinnis's story on page 34.

The Bond cheat sheet

Major black-tie pitfalls — tips for the aspiring spy

- **DON'T** wear black tie with penny-loafers or patterned brogues. Plain black lace-ups only.
- **DON'T** wear a wing collar. Unless you are at some nostalgic '80s party.
- **DON'T** wear a pre-tied bow tie. You can find various diagrams and even animations of how to tie a bow tie on the web — or you can go to a conservative men's store and get the salesman to show you. It's easy, seriously, and it makes all the difference between a gentleman and a guy who looks uncomfortably dressed-up. A real bow tie always looks softer and more relaxed.
- **DON'T** be seduced by the idea of matching coloured bow ties and cummerbunds. Bond sticks to plain black.
- **DON'T** worry about a cummerbund or waistcoat — despite what eager salesmen want to sell you. Your jacket is going to be kept closed while you're standing anyway, so no one will see either.
- **DON'T** be afraid of vintage clothing stores. You can get some classic Bond looks there for a couple of hundred bucks.
- **AND REMEMBER:** in a pinch you can wear a regular plain black business suit with a formal shirt and black bow tie. Few people will notice the lack of satin.



TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

Sean Connery as James Bond.

RUSSELL SMITH/FOR METRO CANADA

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MCC 893653-3375B HFL 10/08

Create a custom-designed scarf

Shoppers are invited to drop by Made You Look Jewellery Studio and Gallery (1338 Queen St. W.) on Nov. 6 and 7 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. to create a custom-designed scarf with designer Andrea Shewchuk. Starting at $195, the scarves are made of fine fibres and embellishments. METRO CANADA

Reliable rainy day gear

Style File

Kim Elbo
kim.elbo@metronews.ca

ask kim

I am getting into acting and would like to know what brand of makeup to use on the stage and on camera.

There are brands out there that specialize in makeup for high-definition (HD) TV and stage makeup, but it all depends on the lighting as different brands of makeup have a particular sheen and this may reflect stage or camera lighting poorly. Try Make Up For Ever for HDTV and MAC for their wide variety of colours.

Short Sleeve
Designer: Old Navy
Shop: Old Navy
Address: Various locations
oldnavy.com

Classic
Designer: Comme des Garçons
Shop: H&M
Address: Various locations
hm.com

Classic Houndstooth
Designer: Sakura
Shop: Mantique
Address: Various locations
mantique.ca

Graphic
Designer: ning nong
Shop: ningnongtees.com
Address: Hudson's Bay Co.
ningnongtees.com

Chainlink
Designer: Banana Republic
Shop: Banana Republic
Address: Various locations
bananarepublic.com

Beautiful
Designer: The Umbrella Shop
Shop: The Umbrella Shop
Address: Various locations
theumbrellashop.com

trench coats

The belted trench coat is always a popular look for fall. Berry colours like reds, blues and purples are in for the season, while plaids and houndstooth patterns are always a classic look that can be worn from season to season. Switch up the belts on your coats for different looks. And remember, not all trenches are water repellent so look for fabrics that are like the Sakura jacket by Mantique; it's warm, lined and great for a rainy day.

accessory

The official mascara of Toronto L'Oréal Fashion Week — Double Extend Beauty Tubes, $15. Available January 2009 in all major drug stores.

umbrellas

Probably one of the most important accessories to have when you've just done your hair and/or put on a really great outfit. The umbrella is an accessory you should carry year-round. If you're out looking to buy an umbrella this season, look for one that has an aluminum frame — they're lightweight and easy to carry around. For a good water-resistant umbrella top, ask around for one made out of Nano Tex; liquids won't absorb into the fabric and it dries in seconds.

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PRESENTED BY: NISSAN
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TORSTAR FILE PHOTO

This year's Fashion Cares event, dubbed Fashion sCares, will have a Hitchcock theme.

Fashion Cares is back with scary twist

EVENT It will be haute couture meets Hitchcock as the 22nd annual Fashion Cares event kicks off this Saturday.

The costume party fundraiser, to be held at Brant House, will include musicians Katy Perry and Kreesha Turner and be hosted by Toronto native and film director David Furnish.

"A Halloween weekend spectacle — Fashion Cares presents Fashion sCares," says Michael King of Fashion Cares Steering Committee. "A fancy-dress costumed affair that takes its theme from the master of suspense."

David Dixon, Pam Chorley, Greta Constantine and Izzy Camilleri are just a few of the more than 40 fashion designers who will be at the event.

"We're reinstating the gala's runway extravaganza — which will include a sharp focus on national and international designers — and we're upping the glamour," says King.

Fashion Cares is Canada's largest AIDS fundraiser and has raised more than $10 million in the past 21 years.

General admission tickets for the event cost $125 and can purchased by calling Ticketmaster or visiting fashioncares.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

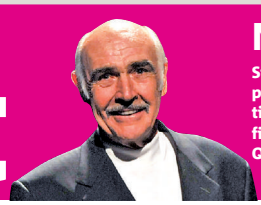
JEWELRY If everything in the worlds of art and design has already been done, Paloma Picasso's trick is making people think it's new again. Picasso, the daughter of Pablo Picasso and a longtime jewelry designer, recently launched her newest collection for Tiffany & Co. based on mosaic techniques that are centuries old. "Jewelry is about timelessness. A piece of jewelry is here to stay much longer than a dress or gown," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moore honoured in France

Sir Roger Moore was awarded one of France's highest honours during a ceremony in Paris Tuesday. The former James Bond star was presented with the Order of Arts and Letters by French Culture Minister Christine Albanel. IMDB.COM

Entertainment



New Quest

Sir Sean Connery has reportedly come out of retirement to shoot a new film with Orlando Bloom, Quest of Sheherzade.

IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Live and let dress

TONY ATTANASIO/FOR METRO CANADA

Nello Sansone, master tailor for Harry Rosen, makes alterations on a Canali tuxedo worn by Metro writer Rick McGinnis at a fitting at the Harry Rosen store on Bloor Street West in Toronto.

There are moments of great luxury in the life of a secret agent," Ian Fleming wrote at the start of Live And Let Die, his second James Bond novel. "There are assignments on which he is required to act the part of a very rich man; occasions when he takes refuge in good living to efface the memory of danger and the shadow of death…"

I'm clearly not taking refuge from danger or death's shadow, but my muscles are still aching from the session at the Krav Maga gym four days ago, so I'm looking at today's Becoming Bond assignment as my brush with that great luxury.

Jeff Farbstein, the executive VP, general merchandise manager at Harry Rosen, meets me at the Tom Ford boutique at the menswear giant's downtown headquarters before the shop opens.

The Bond franchise switched to Ford to clothe Daniel Craig's Bond with the latest film, Quantum Of Solace, after a long relationship with Brioni, the Italian clothier, dating back to Pierce Brosnan's Goldeneye.

Jeff is very kind, describing to me how a good tailor will correct for things like my gut and poor posture by lengthening the back of a suit jacket, raising the back of the neck and tightening up the collar. He opens up a closet where they keep the standard size jackets for fittings and slips me into a two-button black suit jacket

with a notched lapel and I look in the mirror to discover I'm 20 pounds lighter.

"He always looks like he's just got the suit out of the dry cleaners," Farbstein says of Sean Connery's Bond, the unsurpassed prototype.

"Whether he's standing or sitting, he's always fresh — everything always seems perfect." He shows me a beautiful three-piece light glen plaid suit that echoes the one Connery wears for most of the last half of Goldfinger; it's a fine example of what Ford is trying to do with his bespoke line, and it costs $6,000.

Jeff says that someone like Bond would need at least five good suits, a couple of tuxes, two or three shirts for each, and a closet full of shoes and casual wear. I try doing the tally in my head, and it doesn't sound like something you could afford on a civil servant's salary.

Upstairs, Nello Sansone, Harry Rosen's master tailor, describes to me how he's cut suits for police officers, subtly adding room to the chest and armhole to accommodate the shoulder holster and gun, a process not dissimilar from designing a suit for a man with a thick wallet.

He slips me into a very Bond-like Canali tuxedo for a fitting — the sort of thing Bond would wear to a casino or embassy reception. Once again, the 20 pounds have miraculously disappeared. The tux costs $2,000, and the added shirt, tie, shoes, pocket square and other accessories bring it up close to three grand, but I'm looking at myself in the mirror, slimmer, straighter, taller, and I'm already making excuses to justify the expense, even if I'm reduced to wearing it to parent-teacher interviews.

MORE ON BOND STYLE, PAGE 31

Myers touched by performance
Funnyman Mike Myers realized the power of his infamous impersonations after a recent performance for sick children at the Rusk Institute in The Bronx, N.Y., left him "crying like a baby." IMDB.COM

Everybody can be a Guitar star

Guitar Hero World Tour expands the band to include other instruments

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

It's official: Guitar Hero World Tour's release this week means the war of the band games is on.

Guitar Hero World Tour expands the guitar-only formula of the series to allow an entire band to play together, much like its competitors, Rock Band and Rock Band 2.

While the Rock Band series was first out of the gate to offer a full-band experience, Guitar Hero World Tour enters the arena with more game modes and a Music Studio feature that lets players compose their own songs. Only time — and the sound of clicking peripherals — will tell which series prevails.

A refreshing alternative to the violent fare usually equated with gaming, music games that allow multiplayer participation are a hot trend in entertainment right now.

Players choose an authentically shaped instrument for guitar, bass, drums, or pick up a microphone for vocals and participate by keeping in rhythm with scrolling notes on the television.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/METRO CANADA

Technology journalist Kris Abel rocks out and sings to Today by the Smashing Pumpkins at the Guitar Hero World Tour launch party in Toronto recently.

Technology journalist Kris Abel attended the recent Guitar Hero World Tour launch party in Toronto and got a chance to rock out on guitar and do vocals on tracks such as Today by the Smashing Pumpkins. He says games such as Guitar Hero World Tour could make stage fright a thing of the past among the younger generation since these aren't just music games any more — they're full-blown performance simulators.

"I think these games are going to create an entire generation who don't know the meaning of stage fright and have fewer self-esteem issues," Abel said.

> **"These games are going to create an entire generation who don't know the meaning of stage fright."**
> Kris Abel

Craig Flannagan, a platform manager for Microsoft's Xbox 360 game system, says Guitar Hero World Tour and other music games are expected to become the biggest force driving new gamers to the system. He believes the popularity of music games stems largely from their social nature.

"These are games that are taking gaming to a very social place. It's easy to bring new people in and play together, and experiences are better when they're shared with friends," Flannagan said.

Healey leads blues nominees

MUSIC Late guitar great Jeff Healey and one of his musical groups lead the list of nominees for the 2009 Maple Blues Awards.

Members of the Jeff Healey Blues Band are collectively up for seven trophies, including recording of the year for the album, Mess of Blues.

Other nominees include pianist Julian Fauth and veteran act Downchild, both of Toronto, who have four nominations apiece.

The Maple Blues Awards gala is set for Jan. 19 in Toronto. Nominees are selected by experts from across Canada, and winners are picked online by Canadian fans. Voting begins at www.mapleblues.ca this Saturday and ends Dec. 6. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

ART A painting believed to be by Jackson Pollock will be displayed at Gallery Delisle, with its U.S. owner, Teri Horton, seeking a Canadian buyer for $50 million. Bought for $5, Horton brought the painting here since the U.S. art market refused to acknowledge its forensic authentication. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crowe the werewolf
Russell Crowe is set to play a werewolf in a new movie to be directed by Ridley Scott. IMDB.COM

Get over it Pink

Pink

Album: Funhouse
Label: Sony BMG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN able to rely on Pink to keep the rest of the corporate pop stars honest. She turned both barrels on them with Stupid Girls. Now she does the same thing to herself with So What, lead single off Funhouse. The marriage breakup with Carey Hart seems to have left her ... vulnerable. It works surprisingly well on I Don't Believe You (which is believable), but fails on Please Don't Leave Me (which isn't). The feisty in-your-face Pink returns on Bad Influence and the title track, Funhouse. But there's just not enough of that old attitude. Come on, Pink, get over it. Time to kick some butt out there.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Lordi

Album: Deadache
Label: The End/Sony BMG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

LORDI IS BIG in its native Finland. Freaking huge, actually. The mask-wearing theatrical rockers have their own credit card through Sampo Bank, as well as their own pop (Lordi Cola). The five-piece band's stage show combines horror-flick theatrics with arena-friendly rock. Hey, there's a market for this stuff. Alice Cooper and GWAR can't be everywhere at once. Stage dramatics aside, Lordi write steady, heavy, pop-friendly tunes. And — as you would hope with this type of material and presentation — the band has a sense of humour. The biggest knock against Deadache is the silly, growl-y vocals. They don't add to the drama.

Jim Reyno/Metro Canada

Album Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Bloc Party

Album: Intimacy
Label: Atlantic/Warner
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

BLOC PARTY SHOWS a lot of range on its third album, Intimacy. In the case of vocalist Kele Okereke, sometimes a little too much range. With a thick British accent (almost unbelievably thick in some spots), Okereke can sound like a whinier Andy Partridge of XTC. But when he stays mid-range and doesn't sound like he's putting on, Okereke delivers heartfelt, intimate vocals. Okereke, and the entire band for that matter, thrive on the ballads and darker songs (and there a lot of those). Don't be fooled by the raucous kickoff track Ares: Intimacy is a personal, introspective album.

Jim Reyno/Metro Canada

Not so pretty anymore?
Actress Julia Roberts has laughed off rumours of a sequel to her 1990 hit movie Pretty Woman, insisting at 41 she's too old to play a prostitute. **IMDB.COM**

Eva **Avila**

Album: Give Me the Music
Label: Sony BMG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

OUR CUTE LITTLE Canadian Idol (2006) has turned into a steamy dance club seductress. Well, that's what it looks like on the cover. Yeah, they've made her look like all the other pop stars they're pushing. And guess what? She sounds like them too. I dare anyone to pick this voice out of a lineup. But it's not easy to scratch out a personality for yourself when you've got a veritable army of songwriters trying to do it for you. Check out the lyrics on Damned. I count at least a dozen clichés in there fighting each other for space. There's talent here. Let it breathe.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Snow **Patrol**

Album: A Hundred Million Suns
Label: Fiction/Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕

THIS NORTHERN Ireland-based outfit hinted at setting this fifth album apart from its previous anthemic, alt-soft-rock output. Just don't bank on as radical a departure as, say, recent Coldplay or Keane. Aside from one decent pulsating rocker (Disaster Beaten), an early '70s Pink Floyd-esque softie (Set Down Your Glass), a paltry Radiohead imitation (The Golden Floor) and a three-part closing epic that transports you to the 'zzz' zone (The Lightning Strike), the rest is snooze-inducing business as usual.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

SONY BMG PHOTO

The breakup of her marriage seems to have left Pink vulnerable on Funhouse. It works surprisingly well on I Don't Believe You (which is believable), but fails on Please Don't Leave Me (which isn't).

John **Legend**

Album: Evolver
Label: Columbia/Sony BMG
Rating: ⊕⊕

IT'S CLEAR WHEN you hear Evolver — John Legend's latest — that the neo-soul pianist is trying to well, evolve. But while this record is a departure from previous efforts, it's more of a step back than a leap forward. The crooner's third full-length is filled with upbeat R&B synth tracks and guitar riffs, which could have been interesting if only they weren't so bland. There's barely an infectious chorus here, and cliché lyrics about his ex on This Time will make you long for the usually thoughtful singer's back catalogue.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Kaiser **Chiefs**

Album: Off With Their Heads
Label: B-Unique/Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

NOW THAT THE excitement of Franz Ferdinand-era rock 'n' roll has waned, only the strongest acts have survived. One of those bands, The Kaiser Chiefs, continues to make spiky amped up music that pleases punk fans and Beatles lovers alike. Their latest, produced by Mark Ronson, is another entertaining blast of spiky pop music. It's doesn't deviate much from their previous efforts, but this is one band where reliability is welcome. Despite a few lackluster moments, Off With Their Heads, is another enjoyable disc from these feisty Brits.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Kenny **Chesney**

Album: Lucky Old Sun
Label: Sony BMG
Rating: ⊕⊕½

WHEN LIFE GETS tough for Kenny Chesney, all he has to do is slip off the cowboy boots, hop on a boat and sail off to Jamaica for some quality time on the beach ... and, hey, maybe jam out with Bob Marley's old band to help make him feel at one with the world.

His current hit is called Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven. It's the one with the Wailers backing him up. And the chorus is as true as true can be. Everybody does, indeed, want to go to heaven. It's just that your fans probably can't afford to do it, Kenny, in the style to which you've become accustomed.

Now pass that salt shaker and sail on over to Margaritaville.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Read the latest music news online at metronews.ca/music

Nolan unsure about third Batman flick

The Dark Knight director Christopher Nolan has doubts over the next Batman movie, because the third film in the franchise may be too difficult to make. IMDB.COM

Comedian quits BBC after prank call scandal

Every entertainer knows there's a fine line between offbeat and offensive. Russell Brand has built a career walking it, but now he may have stumbled.

The British comedian is renowned for risque routines, wrote a memoir recounting his drug and sex addiction and called U.S. President George W. Bush "that retarded cowboy fellow" while hosting MTV's Video Music Awards.

Yesterday, Brand quit his BBC radio show after he and fellow performer Jonathan Ross were suspended indefinitely for leaving lewd messages on the voicemail of a 78-year-old actor.

The calls by Brand and Ross to actor Andrew Sachs — best known for playing Spanish waiter Manuel in the 1970s Britcom Fawlty Towers — have drawn more than 18,000 complaints.

In the ad-libbed messages, the pair claimed Brand had slept with Sachs's granddaughter Georgina Baillie, and joked that Sachs might hang himself as a result of the news. Baillie, a 23-year-old burlesque performer, admitted she had a sexual relationship with Brand but said the calls to her grandfather were "cruel."

The duo made further calls to Sachs in which they tried to apologize but continued to blurt out lewd messages. The calls were recorded Oct. 16 and aired on Brand's radio show two days later.

Both Brand and Ross have apologized.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No. 500-12-296557-089
LEI ZHENG, Applicant Vs.
RHONDA MARIE JACQUELINE YARENKO, Defendant
SUMMONS
ORDER is given to **RHONDA MARIE JACQUELINE YARENKO** to appear before the Superior Court of Quebec, Family division, located at 1, Notre-Dame Street East, Montreal (Quebec) H2Y 1B6, room 2.17, within 30 days of the publication of the present Notice in the newspaper Metro.
A copy of a Motion introducing proceedings, exhibits, notice to defendant has been filed with the court to the attention of **RHONDA MARIE JACQUELINE YARENKO**.
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Lohan's ex-bodyguard drops lawsuit
Lindsay Lohan's former bodyguard, David Kim, has dropped his lawsuit against the actress and abandoned his attempt to retrieve $55,000 US in "unpaid wages." Representatives for Lohan could not reached to reveal if the actress settled the case out of court. IMDB.COM

Advice from a royal disciple

JIM REYNO
jim.reyno@metronews.ca

Melissa Williams' expert advice to aspiring dancers is clear: Don't limit yourself. And don't be afraid of Prince.

The renowned dancer/choreographer is creating the opening number for So You Think You Can Dance Canada's Top 14 results broadcast on CTV tonight. And as someone whose diverse resume includes collaborations with George Michael, Bryan Adams, Michael Caine, Carmen Electra — as well as Prince — Williams wants contestants to know there's lots of work out there.

"I really want them to see that there's an alternative to the more commercial pop-type music," said Williams, who has worked on the films Hairspray, Showgirls, That Thing You Do and the American Pie series. "Most of the time, that's what we see dance associated with. So if I could leave them with anything, it's that movement can go alongside anything — rock 'n' roll, orchestral music, pop music …

Renowned dancer/choreographer Melissa Williams has worked with the likes of Prince, George Michael and Carmen Electra.

"I hope I can leave them with a different sense of rhythm and what they can commercialize as a dancer, and who they can work for as artists."

And who knows where it will take them? It took Williams from her native Amherstburg, Ont., to Los Angeles, where she was hired as a dancer in Prince's late-night cabaret Erotic City at his Glam Slam nightclub.

"I went from working with him as a dancer for about four or five years, to then choreographing for him and his New Power Generation dance company," Williams said. "For an artist like him who usually does laundry every five years with all his musicians, all his dancers — even down to the personnel in administrative that work at Paisley Park — I was lucky enough to hang on for almost a decade with him."

In 1995, Prince needed dancers for a performance at the American Music Awards. He showed up at Glam Slam and picked the ones he wanted. Williams was one of them.

Legendary for his eccentricity, people had warned her about His Purpleness before he arrived at rehearsal.

"We were told from dancers who had heard before from other dancers who had worked with him, 'Don't look him in the eye! Don't look him in the eye!'" Williams said over coffee in Toronto. "And then he comes in the room, and of course the first thing I do is look over — and I look him square in the eye, because we're the same height.

"And he winked at me. And I thought, 'Oh, come on — he can't be all bad!'"

Show details

- WHAT: So You Think You Can Dance Canada's top 14 telecast
- WHERE: CTV
- WHEN: Top 14 performed yesterday; Top 14 results tonight, 7 p.m.

Entertainment in brief

PEOPLE Trick-or-treaters won't find the light on outside Bruce Springsteen's New Jersey mansion this Halloween. Springsteen and his wife say they won't be having their usual Halloween display featuring masked characters and decorations. Writing on his website, the rocker blames "catastrophic success." Springsteen and his wife say too many visitors to their neighbourhood raised concerns for the safety of children and parents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Olsen credits business-savvy parents for success

Actress Ashley Olsen credits her business-savvy parents for grooming her and sister Mary-Kate into media moguls — because they let them sneak into meetings at a young age. IMDB.COM

Hollywood trashes import TV flops

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

FOREIGN AFFAIRS As the writers' strike dragged on over the course of last winter, the networks made a big deal out of looking abroad for ideas for the fall season, citing examples such as NBC's adaptation of The Office as proof that a good story was a good story, even if they had to change "chips" to "french fries" and delete jokes about the Queen's husband's racist gaffes.

That hasn't worked out so well, according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter. With the cancellation of The Ex List by CBS, it looks like other underperforming foreign imports might be following this transplant of an Israeli comedy-drama into the dustbin of history.

Eleventh Hour and Life On Mars have done middling basis airing against each other on Thursday night, and CBS' Worst Week has been losing 40 per cent of the viewers it inherits from Two And A Half Men on Monday.

"There are still a lot of immigrants waiting to be released from the Ellis Island ... (but) Hollywood thinks with its belly, though, not its head, and this season's failures are likely to jinx further transplants."

Advance word on NBC's Kath & Kim was never good, and the show has become Thursday night's sucking chest wound. The Reporter notes that it's already been cancelled in Australia, though it was never likely to take off in the country where the original was such a big success.

There's a hint of optimism in slow but notable improvements in Eleventh Hour's rating, and good reviews for Worst Week and Life On Mars, and CTV's Flashpoint even gets a pat on the head for its brief summer slot on CBS, and a likely return as a midseason replacement.

All is not lost for the lawyers who were looking forward to more business negotiating acquisition of foreign rights, but the primetime transplants are still regarded as wan and sickly even next to this season's very qualified successes — shows like Fringe, The Mentalist, 90210 and Knight Rider.

There are still a lot of immigrants waiting to be released from the Ellis Island of network production, though, including shows from Australia, France and Argentina, and the utterly unnecessary Americanization of Absolutely Fabulous. Hollywood thinks with its belly, though, not its head, and this season's failures are likely to jinx further transplants.

"Hollywood is a pretty reactionary town," one unnamed network executive told the Reporter. Indeed — with a few more foreign flops kicking this dismal season in the shins, they might even consider having the cast of The Simpsons dub the actors' voices in Flashpoint, anxious that the Canadian diction might alienate U.S. audiences.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/30/08	265	353	2	TVO	Mighty Movers		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital (N)		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)		The Office (N)	Billable Hours	(10:01) Life on Mars		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty "Ugly Berry"		30 Rock	30 Rock	Friends	Friends	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Dance	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		ER "Haunted" (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	*The Hills Have Eyes* ★★ (2006, Horror) Aaron Stanford.				News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Météo	Aventures	*Mouchette* ★★★ (1967, Drame) Nadine Nortier, Jean Vimenet.				Volt
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case "Daniela"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville "Identity" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Gabon (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock	ER "Haunted" (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ugly Betty "Ugly Berry"		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Life on Mars		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Hole in the Wall		America's Next Top Model		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	MLB Baseball World Series Game 7 -- Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays.						The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Great Performances at the Met "La Bohème" Love and loss.					In the Life	Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Identity" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Ray Zahab.		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Wall Street Crisis: Is Your Money Safe?				On the Money		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Sportsnet Con.	MLB Pregame	MLB Baseball World Series Game 7 -- Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays. (Live)						
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	CFL Football Saskatchewan Roughriders at Toronto Argonauts. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre	
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman		Pilot Guides Specials		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pinks
family	551	542	25	YTV	Charlie Brown	Garfield	Sabrina-Witch	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Planet Sketch	Ghosts-Scooby	Ghosts-Scooby	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Code Monkeys
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Real Est	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	Greek		On Set: Girl	Video on Trial	Degrassi: Next	Instant Star	Greek		Muchmsc Ctdn
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	Crime 360
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	*La Dolce Vita* ★★★ (1960, Drama) Marcello Mastroianni.				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Back In	Madonna: The Confessions Tour -- Live From London				I Want to Work for Diddy		Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	Tara Diaries	The Wilkinsons	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
	616	521	39	SHO	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis (HDTV)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Saving Grace (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Camera	In the Mind ...	*Naked Lunch* ★★★ (1991, Science Fiction) Peter Weller.				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted "Jen"		The Biggest Loser		Rich Poor
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Reveille"		Lost Worlds		Chasing Warbirds		NCIS "Reveille"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Choc. News	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos (N)	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*Seed of Chucky* ★ (2004, Horror)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Access	Hip-Hop Awards '08 Top hip-hop artists are honored.				American Gangster (N)		*Baby Boy*
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "... And Found"		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica		Chuck (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Hills	Super Sweet	True Life "Native" living.		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Halloween Sweets Unwrapped		The Secret Life Of...		Jamie's Kitchen Australia (N)		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	Keeping Up	*The Wizard of Oz* ★★★★ (1939, Fantasy) Judy Garland.				Emily-Moon
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	etalk Presents Me to We		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Nght Grdn	Toot & Puddle	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Occupation double			Vlog (SC)	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct sur l'économie		Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	Judging Amy		*Naked Frailties* ★★ (1998, Suspense) Travis Woloshyn.				Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy
	300	601	301	M1	*The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep* (2007, Fantasy)				*All Hat* (2007, Drama) Keith Carradine.				*Fur: D. Arbus*
	305	612	306	PIX	*The Professionals* ★★★ (1966, Western) Lee Marvin.				*Bless the Child* ★ (2000, Suspense) Kim Basinger.				*Rosemary*

critics' corner

Masterworks

Jimmy Mirikitani has lots of stories to tell ... but he'd prefer to show you. The new documentary "The Cats of Mirikitani" is a deeply personal profile of an artist who grew up in Hiroshima, was confined to a U.S. internment camp during the Second World War and spent his later years on the streets of New York. Filmmaker Linda Hattendorf found him there and urged him to share his life story and his art. After the 9/11 attacks, she opened her home to him. 10 PM on TVO

The Nature of Things

Calling all armchair Indiana Joneses. In the new four-part series "The Adventurers" real-life explorers take viewers along to explore exotic peoples and places. The opening episode, "The Last Nomads," is a bittersweet encounter with the Penan people of the Borneo rain forest, who are losing their millennia-old way of life to logging concerns. Anthropologist and linguist Ian Mackenzie conducts the tour. 8 PM on CBC

In brief

AWARDS Last month's Polaris Music Prize gala, featuring indie stars Plants and Animals, Shad, Kathleen Edwards and Caribou — who won this year's award — is coming to TV.

All 10 of the nominees for the third-annual $20,000 purse, awarded to the best Canadian album regardless of genre, appear on the broadcast.

This year's winner was the electronic disc Andorra, the fourth full-length album from Caribou, also known as Dundas, Ont., native Dan Snaith.

Performers include Vancouver's Black Mountain, Charlottetown's Two Hours Traffic, rapper Shad and newcomer Basia Bulat, both from London, Ont.

Fellow nominees include Stars from Montreal, Holy F— from Toronto and the Weakerthans from Winnipeg.

The hour-long special, Rogers Presents the Polaris Prize, airs Nov. 8 on Citytv.

Votes from nearly 200 members of the music media narrowed down the competition to a short list of 10 albums.

The candidates were then debated by the 11-member grand jury while the gala took place.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

Singer Messina to have son
Country singer Jo Dee Messina and her husband Chris Deffenbaugh are expecting their first child, a boy. Messina is in her third trimester — she is due in December. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Britney's dad in control

LEGAL Britney Spears' father, Jamie, has been named permanent conservator of his daughter's affairs, a Los Angeles court has ruled.

He was also named permanent co-conservator of her estate, along with an attorney, Andrew Wallet, on Tuesday, People.com reports.

"I've met several times with (Britney) and she requested that I not object to the permanent conservatorship," the singer's court-appointed lawyer Samuel Ingham said in open court.

Commissioner Reva Goetz stated the permanent conservatorship was "necessary and appropriate."

Experts say, however, the permanent status doesn't necessarily mean forever.

A source close to Spears concurs, saying, "This is by no means something that's going to last forever. The conservatorship being made permanent in name is primarily to ensure increased time with her children, and provide support for her music and work goals."

Terry K. Wasserman, a mental health lawyer not involved with this case adds, "Ms. Spears can regain control of her life anytime — as long as her doctors feel she's able to manage her own affairs."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Joaquin to quit acting for music

CAREER Oscar winner Joaquin Phoenix is retiring from Hollywood at the age of 34, imdb.com reports.

The actor will instead focus on his budding music career.

"I'm not doing films anymore," Phoenix told Extra. "I'm working on my music. I'm done. I've been through that."

His representative confirmed the news, saying, "That is what he told me."

Phoenix's brother-in-law actor Casey Affleck added Phoenix is for real: "I don't think he's kidding. He's got music and stuff."

Phoenix's vocal skills were applauded in 2005 when he recorded the soundtrack for the Johnny Cash biopic Walk The Line. His efforts won him a Grammy award, and he is now working on an album with British rocker Tim Burgess from The Charlatans.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Gwyneth tops worst duet poll

SURVEY Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and singer Huey Lewis' rendition of Cruisin' in the 2000 movie Duets has been voted the worst vocal collaboration of all time, by online music magazine Spinner, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pair played karaoke champs in the film.

Paula Abdul's pairing with MC Skat Kat for Opposites Attract was named second worst, followed by Sir Paul McCartney and Michael Jackson's The Girl is Mine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

HELLO! Hot shot of the week

INFGP

The prospect of a Canadian winter hasn't deterred actress Halle Berry from purchasing property north of the border, inset. Berry — seen shopping at a Vancouver Whole Foods store on Sunday — and her Montreal-born model beau Gabriel Aubry have bought a million-dollar retreat in Quebec's Laurentian Mountains, where they can cosy up against the elements with seven-month-old daughter Nahla.

HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands — read more at hellomagazine.ca

Colin reveals pain at movie flop

PEOPLE Actor Colin Farrell has opened up about box-office blunder Alexander four years after its release, saying he's just getting over his disappointment at the movie flop, imdb.com reports.

Farrell played the ancient Greek conqueror in the 2004 movie.

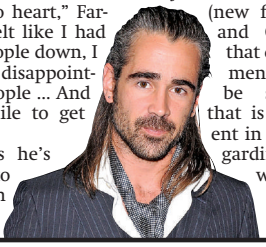
The film made a mere fourth of its reported $155 million US budget at the U.S. box office, adding to Farrell's stress from movie critics who were disappointed with his performance.

"I took it to heart," Farrell says. "I felt like I had let a lot of people down, I felt like I had disappointed a lot of people ... And it took a while to get over that."

Farrell adds he's just starting to recover from the backlash.

"I probably got a bit disillusioned after that. I think only in the last couple of years starting with (new film) Pride and Glory has that disillusionment ceased to be something that is still present in my life regarding the work."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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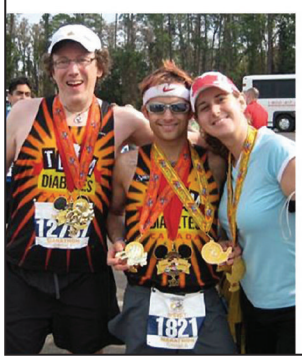

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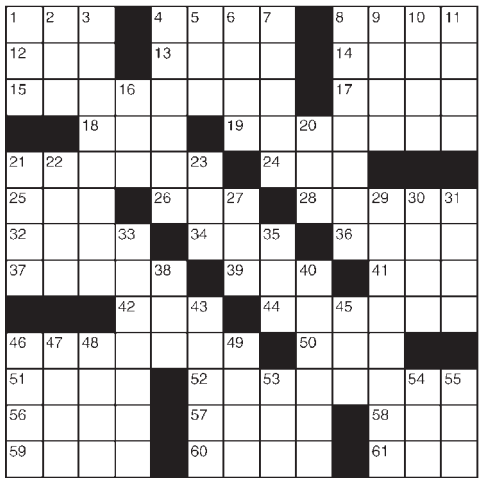

Crossword across

1 Vacationing
4 Weapon handle
8 Major leagues
12 Carnival city
13 Look lecherously
14 Norway's capital
15 Bully
17 Revolution period
18 Bill
19 Come before
21 Talcum, e.g.
24 In an earlier time
25 "— not choose to run"
26 Long sandwich
28 Different
32 Belgrade resident
34 Wrigley product
36 Domesticate
37 Inquired
39 Petrol
41 Zero
42 Melody
44 Gaudy
46 Stunt double, e.g.
50 "Of course"
51 Flock youngster
52 MySpace alternative
56 Neighborhood
57 Pinocchio, at times
58 X-ray descendant
59 Designer Vera
60 "Desire Under the —"
61 Chow down

Crossword down

1 Scepter topper
2 Christmas tree, often
3 Adroit maneuvering
4 Calvin's companion
5 Time of your life?
6 Envelope feature
7 Aquarium favorite
8 Refuse to buy
9 "Gotcha"
10 Pleased
11 Angry
16 Bankroll
20 Freudian concept
21 Tower city
22 Pindaric works
23 Bad hairpiece
27 Annoy
29 Attractive
30 Eastern bigwig
31 Depend (on)
33 Pellet-filled chair
35 Wrestlers' surface
38 Accomplished
40 Lord Wimsey's creator
43 Soldier's arm
45 Symbol of intrigue
46 Cabbage salad
47 The O'Hara estate
48 Congregation's cry
49 Manicurist's concern
53 Rotating part
54 Man-mouse link
55 Set of equipment

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	1		4		3		9	
4								2
		7		9		6		
	7	3		2		1	8	
	9			8			2	
	2	5		1		9	6	
		8		4		5		
9								8
	4		8		7		3	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	6	4	8	3	7	1	2	9
3	7	9	1	2	5	6	4	8
2	8	1	6	4	9	7	5	3
4	5	8	3	1	2	9	6	7
7	1	2	9	6	4	8	3	5
6	9	3	7	5	8	2	1	4
1	3	7	4	8	6	5	9	2
9	4	5	2	7	1	3	8	6
8	2	6	5	9	3	4	7	1

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Sweet Potato Soup

INGREDIENTS:
2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 large onion, chopped
1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
1 tsp (5 mL) ground ginger
1 tsp (5 mL) allspice
4 cups (1 L) low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth
2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch (2.5-cm) pieces
1 can (19 oz/540 mL) diced tomatoes
1/2 cup (125 mL) natural peanut or almond butter
1 package (16 oz/450 g) frozen shelled edamame
5 oz (150 g) baby spinach

METHOD:
1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add garlic, onion and bell pepper and cook until lightly browned, 5 minutes. Add ginger and allspice and cook for 1 minute.
2. Stir in broth, sweet potatoes and tomatoes and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer until potatoes are just tender, 15 minutes.
3. Place peanut butter in a small bowl. Whisk in about 1 cup (250 mL) of the simmering broth. Return to the pan and add edamame and spinach. Cook until edamame is cooked through, 10 minutes.

SERVES 6

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Noble people are defining their boundaries. Deceit causes awareness of distress. A standard approach isn't necessary for a project.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
There'll be talk about not getting credit. Varied options are difficult for an inattentive person. An elder comes to the forefront of a discussion.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A man makes an effort with bonding. Comforting a friend brings you good luck. You won't insist on following the rules.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A show-off gets spiteful due to frustration. A stranger offers a little sympathy. Talking about a bad boy is more fun than it's worth.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Not everyone is upset about someone's anxiety. Your friendship isn't taken for granted. A lively friend boosts your confidence.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A subdued celebration will take place. A sympathetic person wants the right to remain silent. Be doubtful when you see undue diligence.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Someone's behaviour is unnerving. A phone call is not as good as you expected. A buddy makes the best of a crisis at work.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
A train of thought evokes tender memories. Refuse to take sides while chaos rules. You'll develop a guilty conscience about a lie.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Speak up about honesty and trust. A relationship takes on special significance. Security issues are increased with an appealing person.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Try different tactics when a meddler refuses to listen. A poor decision is made in the heat of the moment. You'll cheer for a friend's deeds.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Keep an open mind but don't forget insulting behaviour. An enemy causes laughter with a silly remark. Avoid people who may not be sincere.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A game player regrets what was said in anger. An old friend has scary news to share. Scrutinize the attention coming from a hermit.

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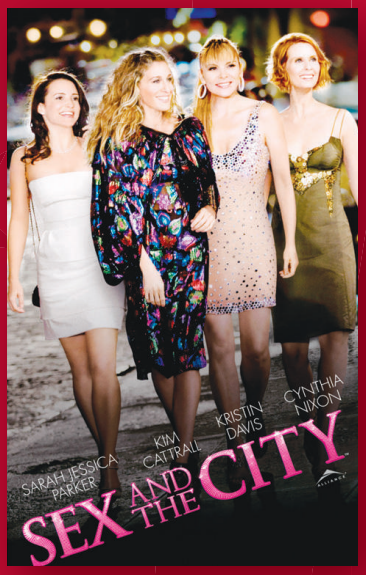
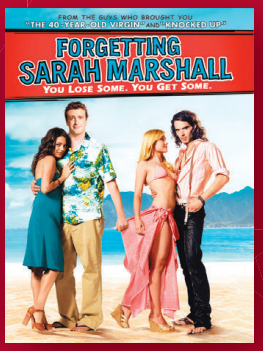


Sex and the City released Oct. 23

AVAILABLE TODAY

Iron Man released Nov. 12

Made of Honor
released Oct. 31



Forgetting Sarah Marshall
released Nov. 13

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